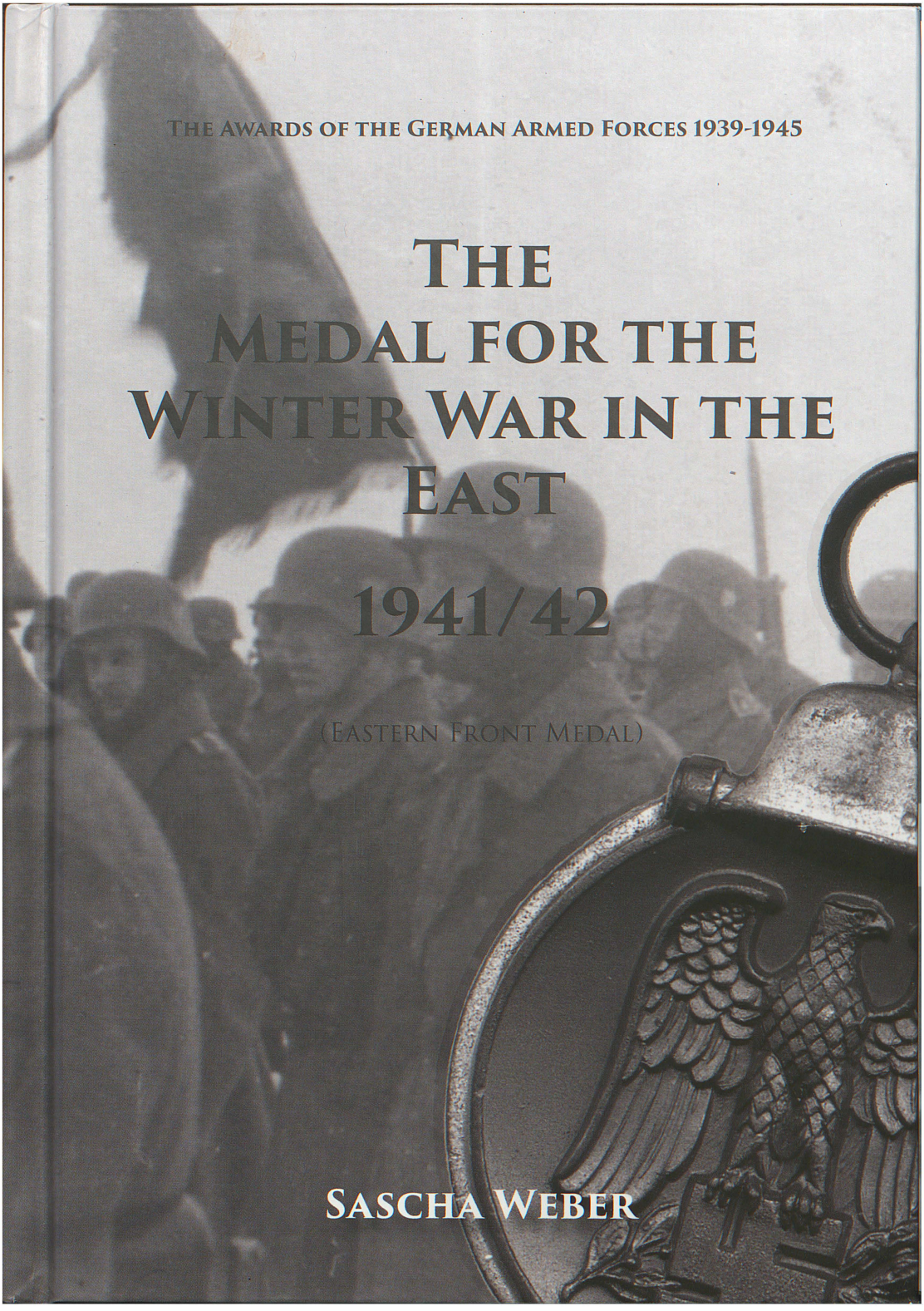

THE AWARDS OF THE GERMAN ARMED FORCES 1939-1945

THE MEDAL FOR THE WINTER WAR IN THE EAST 1941/42

(EASTERN FRONT MEDAL)

SASCHA WEBER

THE MEDAL FOR THE WINTER WAR IN THE EAST 1941/42 (EASTERN FRONT MEDAL)

Verlag Weber

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader and Collector Friends:
Snow, ice, and frost with temperatures below -80 degrees Fahrenheit. It is hard to imagine that in this extreme weather - the Russian winter - hundreds of thousands of soldiers performed their duties on the Eastern Front. They were at the front for days in the open, only able to warm themselves by visiting a dugout where a fire or a wood stove could be found. Additionally, there was a lack of winter equipment and clothing. It is certain that the "Campaign in the East" lasted longer than expected, and the soldiers were "caught cold" by the Russian winter.
Frostbite of the limbs or face was the order of the day. Likewise, there are cases of isolated soldiers who simply froze to death because of lack of movement or warm beverages.
When the "Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42 (Ostmedaille)" (Winter Warfare in the East 1941/42 (East Medal)) was established, the soldiers named it the "Frozen Meat Award". Considering the extreme circumstances that the soldiers had to suffer, this probably would have been a better official name.

This award - which is still inexpensive to purchase - is a highly interesting collectible. Appealingly arranged, the award - together with accompanying documents - conveys the history and fate of each bearer.

Also, the variety of manufacturers and associated packaging is remarkable for this award, and it is worth collecting, especially for beginners.

This book reflects the current thoughts on the award, and is intended to give you an overview of the variants and packaging of the Eastern Front Medal, and at the same time give you confidence in building your collection. In addition to this you will find some new information on some of the manufacturers of this award.

If you as a reader of this updated pocket edition notice errors or find yet-unknown pieces or information, please feel free to contact me. Likewise I am always open for constructive criticism, suggestions for improvement, and help of any kind. I hope you enjoy this work!

Schönau, December 2018

Sascha Weber

ACKNOWLEDEMENTS

It takes months of intensive work and research to complete a book on these awards. This book was possible only with the help of numerous collector colleagues and supporters. Therefore I would like to warmly thank the following persons for their great support!

My great thanks goes to my wife, for her patience and understanding of my not-so-everyday hobby!

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Spitzlei, Björn
Straube, Andrew
Wessolleck, Thomas
Wittstock-Fretter, Jürgen

I would also like to heartily thank anyone I failed to mention in the list, as it was not my intention to leave anyone out. In the pieces depicted in the book, the owners at the time of the photographs were named. If a piece has changed ownership in the meantime, it may be that a name associated with an item is no longer up-to-date.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The German attack on the Soviet Union - Operation Barbarossa - was launched from occupied Poland (General Government) on 22 Jun 1941. From Finland, along the so-called 'Molotov-Line' (the dividing line between the German Reich and the Soviet Union), through Hungary and Romania, the attack commenced on a broad front of approximately 2100 kilometers. It included 121 divisions of the armed forces of the Wehrmacht, Finland, Italy, Hungary, and Romania. Since the Soviet Union only learned of the attack with little notice, their 170 divisions along this line were only partially operational. In some cases the attack came as a complete surprise, so no effective resistance could be organized. The German army and air force worked so effectively together that the Red Army had to accept gigantic losses in men and material. The columns of Russian prisoners marching westwards was nearly endless. The Axis forces made enormous gains in territory and captured huge numbers of weapons and goods.

In August there was an encirclement at Kiev. In this battle alone there were 660,000 Russian prisoners captured. In September, the Wehrmacht pushed to Lake Ladoga and cut off the land connection to Leningrad. At the beginning of October, four Soviet armies were destroyed and the Russian front was torn up to a depth of 400 kilometers.

The Wehrmacht advanced further east in the course of October, and on the 10th panic struck in Moscow and the civilians began fleeing east. Despite being their own people, this was brutally suppressed or stopped by the NKVD (security service). At the end of October the weather was worse - rain and snowfall made the Russian roadways pure mud slopes. Suddenly, the German advance was abruptly stopped on a broad front. At the beginning of October it was believed that the "Campaign in the East" was already won, and that most of the German soldiers would be home for Christmas, but instead a long and hard winter began for them. However, on 15 November Army Group Center, under Generalfeldmarschall Fedor von Bock, continued the advance to the outskirts of Moscow. There the roadways were once again usable, the Red Army was ready to attack from Moscow, and the German advance was stuck about 60 kilometers away.

Temperatures dropping below -30 ° F brought additional problems for the German troops. Weapons jammed, motors froze, and the Luftwaffe could not conduct operations. As a result, the supplies continued to be brought forward by land and air (whenever possible).

In addition, there was a lack of winter clothing and equipment, and there were many soldiers with frostbite on their limbs, and others who died from exposure. Makeshift coats, hats, and clothing were made of animal fur.

The Red Army was better equipped for the winter and launched a counter-attack. As a result, the Wehrmacht had to pull its troops far back in order to stabilize the front,

shorten supply routes, expand defenses, and make up for losses in men and material. The Wehrmacht was stuck in a crisis, but defended their positions, fighting not only the Red Army, but the cold and snow as well. However, large offensives by the Soviets continued until the mud returned in the Spring.

Despite the fact that winter clothes and equipment were makeshift, the German soldiers had won against a very strong opponent in an extremely hard winter. It was decided to honor the "heroic" operations and battles against the Bolshevik enemy in the Russian Winter with the creation of the "Medal for Winter Campaign in the East 1941/42 - East Medal" (*It will be referred to as East Medal or Eastern Front Medal throughout this reference - Translator.*)

The artistic design for the medal came from SS War-Reporter Ernst Krause of the Waffen-SS Propaganda Company.

▲ *The muddy seasons occurred in autumn and spring. These transformed paths and runways into mud holes. It was enormously difficult to move on. The German advance remained stuck in the mud.*

ESTABLISHMENT

The leader at the time - Adolf Hitler - issued a decree on 26 May 1942 creating the "Medal for the Winter Campaign in the East 1941/42 - (East Medal)" as a way to honor the heroic operations against the Bolshevik enemy during the winter of 1941/42.

The text of the Establishment Order of the Eastern Front Medal is reproduced below and important details are highlighted:

"*In recognition of the heroic operations against the Bolshevik enemy during the winter of 1941/42 I am establishing the medal for the "Winter Campaign in the East 1941/42 (East Medal)."*

Article 1
The East Medal is to be worn as a ribbon, or in the second buttonhole of the uniform below the Iron Cross or War Merit Cross. The ribbon is red with small white-black-white stripes in the middle.

Article 2
The East Medal is awarded for recognition of participation in the fight against the Bolshevik enemy and the Russian winter between 15 November 1941 to 15 April 1942.

Article 3
The recipient will receive an award certificate.

Article 4
The East Medal will remain with the survivors of the deceased as a remembrance item.

Article 5
According to my instructions, the execution of the awards are to be issued by the Commander of the High Command of the Wehrmacht, if necessary in consultation with the Minister of State and the Head of the Presidential Chancellery.

Berlin, 26 May 1942
Der Führer, Adolf Hitler
Der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht, Keitel
Der Staatsminister und Chef der Präsideialkanzlei des Führers und Reichkanzlers, Dr. Meißner

Reichsgesetzblatt

Teil I

1942 | Ausgegeben zu Berlin, den 6. Juni 1942 | Nr. 61

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Verordnung über die Stiftung der Medaille „Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42“ (Ostmedaille).

Vom 26. Mai 1942.

In Würdigung des heldenhaften Einsatzes gegen den bolschewistischen Feind während des Winters 1941/42 stifte ich die

Medaille für die »Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42« (Ostmedaille).

Artikel 1

Die Ostmedaille wird am Band der Ordensschnalle oder im zweiten Knopfloch des Waffenrockes nach dem Eisernen Kreuz und dem Kriegsverdienstkreuz getragen. Das Band ist rot, in der Mitte von einem schmalen weiß-schwarz-weißen Längsstreifen durchzogen.

Artikel 2

Die Ostmedaille wird verliehen als Anerkennung für Bewährung im Kampf gegen den bolschewistischen Feind und den russischen Winter innerhalb des Zeitraums vom 15. November 1941 bis 15. April 1942.

Artikel 3

Der Beliehene erhält eine Besitzurkunde.

Artikel 4

Die Ostmedaille verbleibt nach Ableben des Beliehenen als Erinnerungsstück den Hinterbliebenen.

Artikel 5

Die Durchführungsbestimmungen erläßt nach meinen Weisungen der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht, erforderlichenfalls im Benehmen mit dem Staatsminister und Chef der Präsidialkanzlei.

Führer-Hauptquartier, den 26. Mai 1942.

Der Führer
Adolf Hitler

Der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht
Keitel

Der Staatsminister und Chef der Präsidialkanzlei des Führers und Reichskanzlers
Dr. Meißner

◀▼ *The foundation of the medal "Winter Campaign in the East 1941/42 (East Medal)" was published in the Reich Legal Gazette as Part 1, number 61 on 6 June 1942.*

REGULATIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

The implementing regulations were enacted on the same day (26 May 1942) by the Commander of Wehrmacht High Command. It shows that the Eastern Front Medal was awarded under the following conditions: Participation in at least 14 days of combat for army and navy personnel. For flight personnel of the Luftwaffe, combat missions spanning 30 days was required. If the soldier was wounded the conditions were automatically fulfilled if they were awarded the Wound Badge. One could also be awarded the medal if he was in an operational area for 60 days.

All of the above conditions had to be met between 15 November 1941 and 15 April 1942 in the area eastwards of the Wehrmacht Commands "Ukraine" and "Eastern Territory", or it must have been fulfilled in the operational area of Finland east of the Finnish – Russian border beginning in 1940. The entries registered in the Wehrpass for battle and deployment days were the basis for determining eligibility. However, it should be noted that after the additions of 20 January 1943, the cities of Kiev and Dnepropetrovsk lay to the west of this line, and no award was made for individuals or units situated in these cities.

Awardees could be members of any of the armed forces (Army, Air Force, and Navy), non-military personnel subordinated to the Wehrmacht, or those who operated in direct support (Waffen-SS, Border Protection, Police, etc.), other non-members (Railroad, German Red Cross, National Labor Service (RAD), Organization "Todt", etc.), as well as foreign members of allied armies.

Regimental and Battalion commanders and above were authorized to hold ceremonies to award the medal to both military and non-military members who were subordinated to the military or supported it. Other non-military members were handled by certain departments within the State Ministry or the Head of the Presidential Chancellery. For recipients from foreign allied armies it was the next-higher German military headquarters of at least Division level. Hospitalized recipients were given ceremonies by the military staff of the hospital in question.

Following a decree from the German High Command on 19 August 1942, persons or foreigners could be awarded the medal for "Overcoming the Russian Winter" in the service of the Reich. However, awards to members of the 'Eastern People' (Ostvölker) contradicted political viewpoints according to a ruling from the German High Command on 8 September 1942. Since the Russian winter was not unusual for these people, it was determined that they should not receive the award.

However, in spite of this, awards were issued and, unless otherwise stated, the Eastern Front Medal could be given to the individual. This proves that the Eastern People with the Eastern Front Medal were probably given it erroneously. For foreign volunteers who swore allegiance to the Führer and fought with the German military this was not the case – they were eligible for the award.

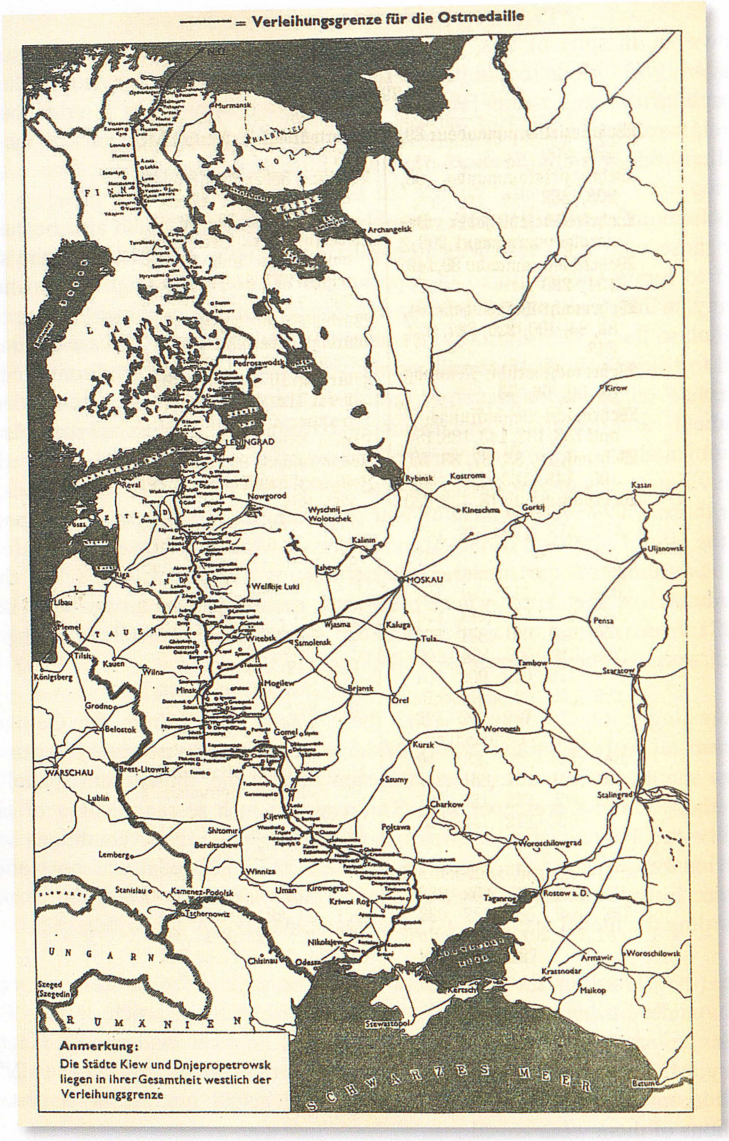
Posthumous awarding to fallen members of the military could also be carried out for those who fully satisfied the requirements. To accomplish this, the superiors had to report the award to the appropriate office in the High Command of the Army, which ordered the issuing and sending of the document, along with the medal, to the next-of-kin. Military members who died from disease or illness who had fulfilled the conditions and had not yet received the Eastern Front Medal could likewise receive a posthumous award. In this case the last commander of the soldier - at a minimum the Regimental Commander - was responsible for the issuing and sending of the document and award to the next-of-kin.

For those who were Prisoners of War or missing in action it was the responsibility of the High Command of the Army. Prisoners were not allowed to be informed of the awarding of the medal. The notification only took place via the High Command of the Army where the award certificate and medal were kept. For military-members the award had to be recorded immediately not only in the Wehrpass, but the Soldbuch[1] as well.

Interestingly, on 20 January 1943 there was a decree from the German High Command suspending the issuing of the medal. This was necessary because of the large number of awards given out, even though the "timely and spatial" award ceremony criteria were not met. This resulted in a re-examination of all cases before the award could be turned over the recipient. If the conditions were not previously met, then the award of the Eastern Front Medal was not valid. By a decree from the German High Command on 9 September 1944, the deadline for awarding the medal was set for 15 October 1944.

The first award in the form of a ribbon is said to be an Infantry company commander on his way home for leave, according to an article in the “People’s Observer” dated 25 July 1942. Today there is no clear evidence of exactly how many awards were handed out. Different sources estimate that between 2.5 and 3 million medals were awarded. Whatever the actual number, it is certain that millions of them were issued.

1. Translator’s note - Wehrpass and Soldbuch were two means to record administrative actions in the German Army. The Wehrpass was typically held at company or battalion level and the Soldbuch was kept by the individual. For the sake of this work I am leaving them in original German.



▲ *This map shows the award line for the Eastern Front Medal. Every military and non-military member who participated in 14 days of battle or flew combat missions for 30 days east of this line between 15 November 1941 and 15 April 1942 was eligible to receive the award.*

Source: Zusatzverfügungen des OKW, 1.3. 1943, Beilage

Nur für den Dienstgebrauch!

Allgemeine Heeresmitteilungen

Herausgegeben vom Oberkommando des Heeres

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Führerbefehle
und
Verfügungen des Oberkommandos

507. Verordnung über die Stiftung der Medaille »Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42« (Ostmedaille) vom 26. Mai 1942.

In Würdigung des heldenhaften Einsatzes gegen den bolschewistischen Feind während des Winters 1941/42 stifte ich die Medaille für die

»Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42«
(Ostmedaille).

Artikel 1

Die Ostmedaille wird am Bande der Ordensschnalle oder im zweiten Knopfloch des Waffenrockes nach dem Eisernen Kreuz und dem Kriegsverdienstkreuz getragen. Das Band ist rot, in der Mitte von einem schmalen weiß-schwarz-weißen Längsstreifen durchzogen.

Artikel 2

Die Ostmedaille wird verliehen als Anerkennung für Bewährung im Kampfe gegen den bolschewistischen Feind und den russischen Winter innerhalb des Zeitraumes vom 15. 11. 1941 bis 15. 4. 1942.

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Der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht

Führerhauptquartier, 26. Mai 1942

Durchführungsbestimmungen zur Verordnung

über die Stiftung der Medaille »Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42« (Ostmedaille) vom 26. 5. 1942

Auf Grund des Artikels 5 der Verordnung über die Stiftung der Medaille »Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42« vom 26. 5. 1942 wird auf Weisung des Führers bestimmt:

1. Die Bedingungen für die Verleihung sind:
   a) eine mindestens 14tägige Teilnahme an Gefechten. Für fliegendes Personal der Luftwaffe Feindflüge an 30 Tagen;
   oder b) Verwundung oder Erfrierung, für die das Verwundetenabzeichen verliehen wurde;
   oder c) Beförderung in einem sonstigen ununterbrochenen Einsatz von mindestens 60 Tagen.

   Die vorstehenden Voraussetzungen müssen in der Zeit zwischen 15. 11. 1941 und 15. 4. 1942 (beide Tage einschließlich) und im Gebiet östwärts des Bereiches der Wehrmachtbefehlshaber Ukraine und Ostland oder im Operationsgebiet Finnland ostwärts der finnisch-russischen Grenze von 1940 erfüllt sein.

2. Verleihungsberechtigt:

a) für Wehrmachtangehörige und für Nichtwehrmachtangehörige, die der Wehrmacht unterstellt oder in ihrem unmittelbaren Auftrage tätig sind:	Vorgesetzte vom Rgt.- usw. Kommandeur und selbständigen Abt.- usw. Kommandeur an aufwärts;
b) für Angehörige einer ausländischen Wehrmacht:	der nächste Vorgesetzte der deutschen Wehrmacht, mindestens in der Stellung eines Div.- usw. Kommandeurs;
c) für Lazarettinsassen:	der nächste militärische Vorgesetzte des Lazaretts;
d) für sonstige im Gebiet nach Ziff. 1 eingesetzte Nichtwehrmachtangehörige:	die vom Staatsminister und Chef der Präsidialkanzlei zu bestimmenden Verleihungsdienststellen.

3. Wo durch die Grenzziehung außergewöhnliche Härten entstehen, kann eine Ausnahmebehandlung beim Oberkommando der Wehrmacht (WZ) beantragt werden.
4. Die Verleihung ist in den Wehrpaß einzutragen. Der Eintrag gilt als vorläufiges Besitzzeugnis und berechtigt ohne weiteres zum späteren Empfang der Ostmedaille.
5. Der Bedarf an Medaillen und Urkunden ist nach näherer Anordnung der Oberkommandos der Wehrmachtteile durch die Armeen, Luftflotten, Wehrmachtbefehlshaber usw. gesammelt unmittelbar bei der Präsidialkanzlei des Führers, Berlin W 8, Voßstr. 4, anzufordern.
6. Bis zur Lieferung der Medaillen ist das Band auszugeben und zu tragen.

Der Chef des Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht
Keitel

Zusätze

des O. K. H. zu den Durchführungsbestimmungen des O. K. W. zur Verordnung über die Stiftung der Medaille »Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42« (Ostmedaille) vom 26. 5. 1942

Die Ostmedaille kann auch verliehen werden:

1. an gefallene deutsch. Wehrmachtangehörige durch Vorgesetzte vom Rgt.- usw. Kdr. und selbständigen Abt.- usw. Kdr. an aufwärts.

   Die vollzogenen Verleihungen sind nach nachstehendem Muster an O. K. H. PA (Z)/Vb auf dem Dienstwege zu melden.

   Die Ausfertigung der Urkunden und Übersendung der Anschreibungen an die Angehörigen veranlaßt O. K. H. PA (Z)/Vb.
2. an unverschuldet in Kriegsgefangenschaft geratene unter Zu. der Durchführungsbestimmungen des O. K. W. aufgeführte Personen durch Vorgesetzte vom Div.- usw. Kdr. an aufwärts.

   Die vollzogenen Verleihungen sind nach nachstehendem Muster an O. K. H. PA (Z)/Vb auf dem Dienstwege zu melden.

   Die Benachrichtigung der beliehenen Kriegsgefangenen hat nicht durch die Truppe zu erfolgen. Die Ausstellung der Urkunden, Aufbewahrung der Anschreibungen und Benachrichtigung der beliehenen Kriegsgefangenen veranlaßt O. K. H. PA (Z)/Vb.

Zu 1: Die Voraussetzungen für die Verleihung der Ostmedaille bei der Heeresgruppe Nord sind erfüllt im Gebiet ostwärts der altrussischen Grenze.

Zu 2a: Verleihungsberechtigt sind auch die Kommandeure des Ersatzheeres, vom Btl.-Kdr. an aufwärts, die Wehrbezirkskommandeure und die Leiter der Heeresentlassungsstellen. Die Erfüllung der Verleihungsbedingungen ist genau zu prüfen — ggf. durch Rückfrage beim Feldtruppenteil.

Zu 2b: Für die Verleihung kommen in Frage:

1. die Wehrmachtangehörigen der verbündeten Länder;
2. die auf den Führer vereidigten ausländischen Freiwilligen;
3. die Freiwilligen fremder Volksstämme aus den befreiten Ostgebieten.

Zu 2c: Die Verleihung der Ostmedaille an Lazarettinsassen hat wie die Verleihung des Verwundetenabzeichens gemäß der Zusammenfassung der Durchführungsbestimmungen des O. K. W. zur Verordnung des Führers über die Stiftung des Verwundetenabzeichens vom 1. 9. 1939, Ziffer 5, Absatz 1 (=Sammeldruck der geltenden Bestimmungen über Orden und Ehrenzeichen vom 25. 5. 1941«, Seite 66) zu erfolgen, wobei gegebenenfalls die Erfüllung der Bedingungen beim Feldtruppenteil des Lazarettinsassen nachzuprüfen ist.

Zu 3: Begründete Anträge sind an O. K. H. PA (Z)/Vb einzureichen.

Zu 4: Gleichzeitig ist die Verleihung sofort in das Soldbuch einzutragen.

Zu 5: Die bisher angeforderten Bänder werden den anfordernden Dienststellen durch das Wehrmachtdepot beim Wehrkreiskdo. I, Königsberg (Pr.), zugeleitet.

Der endgültige Bedarf an Medaillen und Urkunden ist durch die anfordernden Dienststellen bis zum 15. August 1942 an O. K. H. PA (Z)/Vb zu melden.

◀▼ The regulations governing the establishment and implementation of the Eastern Front Medal were published in the "General Army Releases" (Allgemeinen Heeresmitteilungen) on 22 June 1942 (Volume 9, Issue 15.)

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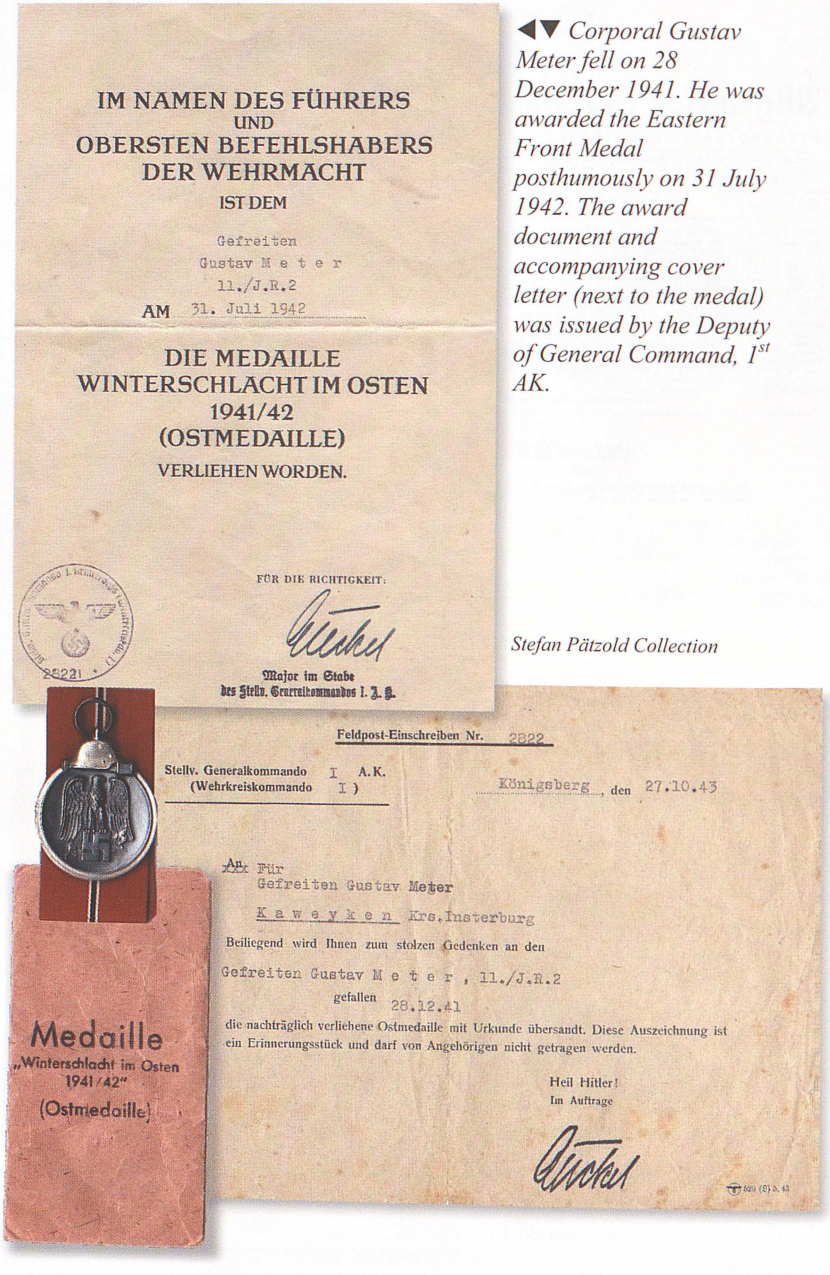

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

Gefreiten
Gustav M e t e r
11./J.R.2
AM 31. Juli 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:
Major im Stabe
des Stellv. Generalkommandos I. A. K.

Medaille
„Winterschlacht im Osten
1941/42"
(Ostmedaille)

Feldpost-Einschreiben Nr. 2822

Stellv. Generalkommando I A.K.
(Wehrkreiskommando I)

Königsberg, den 27.10.43

An Für
Gefreiten Gustav Meter

K a w e y k e n Krs. Insterburg

Beiliegend wird Ihnen zum stolzen Gedenken an den
Gefreiten Gustav M e t e r , 11./J.R.2
gefallen 28.12.41
die nachträglich verliehene Ostmedaille mit Urkunde übersandt. Diese Auszeichnung ist ein Erinnerungsstück und darf von Angehörigen nicht getragen werden.

Heil Hitler!
Im Auftrage

◀▼ *Corporal Gustav Meter fell on 28 December 1941. He was awarded the Eastern Front Medal posthumously on 31 July 1942. The award document and accompanying cover letter (next to the medal) was issued by the Deputy of General Command, 1st AK.*

Stefan Pätzold Collection

WEAR

Article 1 of the Establishment Orders of 26 May 1942 stipulated that the Eastern Front Medal should be worn as a ribbon on the ribbon bar "or in the second buttonhole of the tunic." From the point of view of the collector, this Article may not make a lot of sense. Immediately after the award ceremony, the Eastern Front Medal was worn on the second buttonhole of the field jacket. Only later was the ribbon sewn to the second button hole, running from the top obliquely down to the right. If there was already a ribbon for another award (Iron Cross or War Merit Cross etc.), the Eastern Front Medal ribbon took a lower priority and had to be put underneath.

On the larger medal bar, it was worn directly after the Iron Cross 2nd class 1939 (or 1914) and/or the War Merit Cross 2nd class with and without swords.

This regulation also applied to the small ribbon bar worn on the left breast. Hanging the medal directly on the jacket was not authorized according to implementing regulations, but was probably done, just as with other awards. It certainly was not officially allowed.

A large medal bar next to the smaller ribbon bar, as was worn by Oberfeldwebel Paul Voss on his wedding day, 13 January 1944. ▼

◀ *Note the correct order of the decorations.*

Michael Lobbe Collection

Interestingly, one often finds records of awardees of the East Medal wearing them with the back to the front. Presumably to express the words "WINTER BATTLE IN THE EAST".▶

◀ *Here is another wearer of the Eastern Front Medal – an Army Corporal. He is also wearing the medal with the back side showing.*

Sascha Weber Collection

▲ *A selection of different small ribbon bars, also known as order or field bars.*

Here an Eastern Front Medal ribbon is below an Iron Cross 2nd Class 1914 with a repeat clasp for 1939. ▶

Here is a rare buttonhole decoration that could be worn in civilian attire. ▼

This picture of an unknown NCO of the Armor Corps (Panzertruppen) shows very clearly how to wear the ribbons on the special clothing for tank crews. Here the ribbon was worn on the left lapel of the wrap. ▶

Sascha Weber Collection

◀ *An orignal, signed image of Major Werner Krieger (Knight's Cross 31 Oct 1944) with the ribbon for the Eastern Front Medal in the second buttonhole of his field jacket. Major Krieger was the Commander of the 1st Battalion of Grenadier-Regiment 17.*

Sascha Weber Collection

This Red Cross worker, Elfriede Wnuk from Mingfen (East Prussia), was the second German woman to receive the Iron Cross 2nd Class 1939. She was also awarded the East Medal. Note how she wears the ribbons.

DECORATION

The Eastern Front Medal has a round shape, with a stylized steel helmet (presumably Model 40) at the top of the medal, which in turn lies on a stick hand grenade. The medal has a smooth surface, has been completely oxidized, and has a dark grey hue. The rim of the medal and the steel helmet are silver-plated front and back.
The inwardly curved front side shows an impressive raised national eagle with half-spread wings, perched on a swastika. The swastika has a laural branch underneath it.
The outwardly curved backside has raised script saying „WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN 1941/1942" - „Winter War in the East, 1941/42." Under the writing is a sword with a laural branch crossing it.

On top of the helmet there is an eyelet and a ring so that the ribbon could be threaded through.

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MANUFACTURING TECHNIQUES AND PRODUCTION

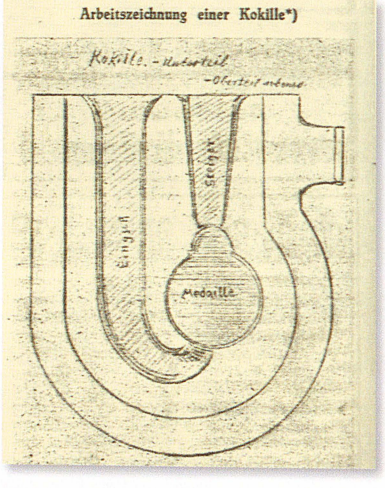
On the basis of contemporary sources (including articles from the former journal "Uniforms Market"), the production processes and methods can be described and illustrated in detail. The textbook author and contemporary witness Dr. Kurt G. Klietmann published the exact steps for the production of the Eastern Front Medal in his book "Awards of the German Reich". The award was created during a time when copper-containing materials were very scarce and expensive. The majority of the manufacturers of German orders switched to different, more abundant metals, which was the intent of the Arbeitsausschuss „Orden und Ehrenzeichen" (Working Committee "Orders and Decorations") and the "Leistungsgemeinschaft Deutscher Ordenshersteller" (LDO) (Administration of German Orders Manufacturers.) In the manufacture of the Eastern Front Medal, therefore, zinc was most likely the only material used. Pieces made of non-ferrous metal, although mentioned in some publications, have not been proven to exist. The blanks were cut from zinc strips and then marked and punched. The following describes the 23 work steps that Kurt G. Klietmann has already published in his aforementioned work. The information refers to the production of approximately 250 medals.

Production of the Eastern Front Medal in 23 steps:
- Embossing and stamping of the blank
- Degreasing with P3 (50g/1 liter of water)
- File and check
- Drill and mount the ring
- Rinse with caustic soda (50g/1 liter of water) and dry
- Scrape with steel brush and pumice powder
- Sand Blasting (10 minutes per page)
- Electron, degreasing (rinse a ½ minute)
- Measurements (20 – 30 minutes)
- Scratching with brass brush
- Dip in Cyan solution (10g/1 liter water)
- Rinse and initial silvering (1 minute)
- Overhanging for final silvering (15 minutes)
- Rinse with warm water containing tartar (1g/1 liter of water)
- Dry with beech flour
- Cover with stencil, spray with special cover varnish
- Scratch, oxidize, with Blitzbeitze 1-2 dips
- Light scratching with soft brass brush
- Wash the topcoat with solvent
- Control, repair
- Scratching with a fiber brush, rubbing (silver spots with baking soda)
- Surface finish both sides with ‚Zaponlack' (a type of laquor)
- Pack

However, since the use of zinc blanks left a lot of excess material squeezed out of the molds, the then head of the Working Committee "Orders and Decorations", W. Tornow, published an article in the journal „Uniforms Market“ (Issue 6, September 1943) giving instructions for rationed production of the Eastern Front Medal.

Since the Eastern Front Medal was a so-called "high-relief medal", the blank of the medal could be cast according to an old proven technique, such as a sand mold or in a manufactured mold (reusable mold). Some companies that had an injection molding machine (die-casting process) could also create the medals using this process. This was followed by embossing and punching by means of a friction screw press, and then further processing of the medal. The casting or pre-molding saved about 40% of the material and several work steps. The following are the operations for processing the blanks of the Eastern Front Medal.

- The pre-molded or precast blank is inserted into the die and embossed with a medium press (100 t print)
- Pieces are punched out with a suitable cutting tool
- Medals are pushed through a polishing tool (grease the edge beforehand)
- Remove the burr by means of a scraper or mechanical device. Scrape the cutting surfaces on the spar.
- Place the medal again in the die and emboss it with weak pressure
- Punch the eyelet through a mechanical tool or drill with a drilling machine



◀ *The sketch of a mold for casting the blank of the Eastern Frontt Medal. This technique was very well proven in high relief medals.*

Magazine „Uniform Market“

Betrieblicher Erfahrungsaustausch

Rationelle Herstellung der Ostmedaille

Von W. Tornow, Leiter des Arbeitsausschusses „Orden und Ehrenzeichen"

Der betriebliche Erfahrungsaustausch ist das aussichtsreichste Mittel für die totale Kraftentfaltung auf allen Gebieten der Kriegswirtschaft.

Gegenüber dem kleinlichen Betriebsegoismus steht die Ehre des zielbewußten Arbeitseinsatzes der Schaffenden, die der Kampffront die aufopfernste Unterstützung zu geben gewillt ist. Die nachstehenden Ausführungen dienen dieser Erkenntnis.

Durch die Verknappung der kupferhaltigen Metalle und Umstellung auf Austauschmetalle ist in der Fertigung von Orden und Ehrenzeichen hauptsächlichst der Werkstoff Zink in den Vordergrund getreten. Zink hat sich in vielen Anwendungsmöglichkeiten bestens bewährt. Selbstverständlich haben auch hier die Erfahrungen, die sich aus der Praxis ergeben haben, auftretende Schwierigkeiten behoben. Bei Zinkprägungen (speziell bei der Ostmedaille) hat die Oberflächenbehandlung immer besondere Schwierigkeiten, da der Werkstoff Zink unter den genormten Bezugsbezeichnungen zumeist noch Unterschiede aufweist. Der meiste Ausschuß an geprägten Ost-Medaillen hat sich durch das aufsteigende Material ergeben. Dieser Uebelstand läßt sich vermeiden.

Hoch-Reliefmedaillen, Orden und Ehrenzeichen, wurden in Zeiten, wo noch genügende Rohstoffe zur Verfügung standen, in Sand geformt, in Buntmetallen gegossen und der Rohguß nachgeprägt. Eine alte Technik, die sich bestens bewährt hat. Es wurden dadurch Arbeitsgänge eingespart und eine Ueberbelastung selbst bei großen Pressen vermieden. Auch heute wird diese Technik bei in Frage kommenden Orden und Ehrenzeichen und Abzeichen von Firmen im Reich erfolgreich angewendet. Firmen, die seit längerer Zeit Ost-Medaillen in Zink vorspritzen oder in Kokillen vorgießen, haben die besten Erfahrungen gemacht. An Leistungsplätzen, an denen die Möglichkeit besteht, die Medaillen vorspritzen zu lassen, ist es zweckmäßig, daß die Firmen, die Spritzgußmaschinen besitzen, die Rohlinge für sämtliche am Platze an Ost-Medaillen-Aufträgen beteiligten Firmen mitliefert. An Leistungsplätzen, wo dieses nicht möglich ist, empfiehlt es sich, die Rohlinge in Kokillen selbst vorzugießen. Dazu gehören weder eine komplizierte Einrichtung noch größere Umstände.

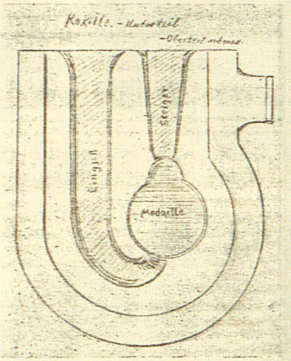
Bearbeitung der Rohlinge

1. Der vorgespritzte oder vorgegossene Rohling wird in die Matrize eingelegt und nachgeprägt, so daß mit einem Schlag die Prägung einwandfrei scharf und sauber herauskommt. Die Medaille kann schon auf einer mittleren Presse (100 t Druck) geprägt werden.
2. Danach werden die Stücke auf einem gut passenden Schnittwerkzeug ausgestanzt.
3. Die Medaillen werden durch ein Polierzeug durchgestoßen. Vor dem Durchstoßen wird der Rand eingefettet.
4. Der entstandene Grat wird mittels eines Schabers oder einer mechanischen Vorrichtung entfernt. Die Schnittflächen am Holm werden rund geschabt.
5. Nach dem Entgraten wird die Medaille nochmals in die Matrize gelegt und durch einen schwachen Nachdruck nachgeprägt, damit die Kanten wieder scharf werden.
6. Die Ringöse wird durch ein mechanisches Lochzeug gelocht oder auf einer Bohrmaschine gebohrt.

Gegenüber der bisherigen Herstellung ergeben sich folgende Vorteile:

Bei den aus Bandmaterial vorgeschnittenen Medaillen ergeben sich Werkstoffabfälle, die meistens den eigenen Betrieben nicht zugute kommen. Bei den vorgespritzten oder vorgegossenen Medaillen kommen sämtliche Werkstoffabfälle restlos dem eigenen Betrieb zugute. Die Materialeinsparung beträgt bei der beschriebenen Erzeugungsart (gespritzt oder vorgegossen) etwa 40 Prozent. Bei der

Arbeitszeichnung einer Kokille*)



gekennzeichneten Technik werden immer vier Stück auf einmal fertig, während beim Vorschneiden alter Herstellungsart nur immer ein Stück fertig wird. Ein großer Vorteil für die Prägung der Medaillen ist der vorgespritzte oder vorgegossene Rohling durch die vorhandene volle Modulation, die nur nachgeprägt werden muß. Das gegossene Material wird durch das Nachprägen dichter, und die Poren werden geschlossen. Die weitere Oberflächenbehandlung, speziell beim Färben, wird einwandfrei.

Die gekennzeichnete Technik läßt sich am günstigsten bei geschlossenen Medaillen, Orden und Ehrenzeichen anwenden, bei Durchbruchprägungen ist die Anwendung weniger günstig.

In jedem Betrieb, in dem der Anlauf der Fertigung von Ostmedaillen noch keinen erheblichen Umfang angenommen hat, wird die gekennzeichnete Technik zweckmäßig empfohlen.

Bei kommenden Aufträgen an Orden und Ehrenzeichen, wo sich das Vorspritzen oder Vorgießen in Kokillen als zweckmäßig erweist, ist diese Technik anzuwenden.

*) Wenn Schwierigkeiten in der Anfertigung der Gipsform bei der Selbstanfertigung auftreten, empfiehlt es sich, sich an Formen-Ziseleure zu wenden, die durch das Büro der LDO erfragt werden können.

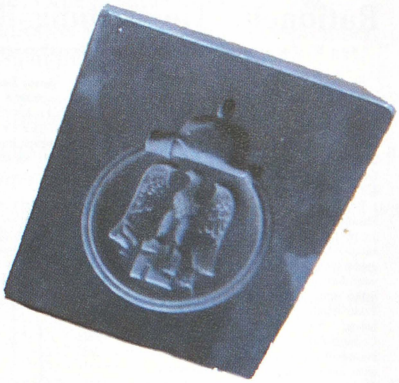
Die Herstellung von Orden und Ehrenzeichen

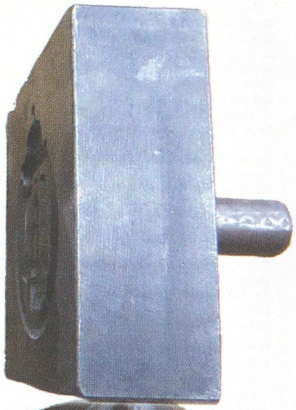
Die Wirtschaftsgruppe Werkstoffverfeinerung und verwandte Eisenindustriezweige als Bewirtschaftungsstelle des Reichsbeauftragten für technische Erzeugnisse hat mit einer im „Reichsanzeiger" Nr. 152 veröffentlichten Anweisung bestimmt, daß Orden und Ehrenzeichen und deren Zubehörteile nur noch nach dem Herstellungsprogramm des Sonderausschusses Zubehör für Ausrüstung und Ausstattung hergestellt, verpackt und geliefert werden dürfen. Aufträge der Präsidialkanzlei über die Herstellung von Orden und Ehrenzeichen und deren Zubehörteile werden von der Anweisung nicht berührt.

◀ *The leader of the Working Committee „Orders and Decorations", W. Tornow, published an article on the rationed production of the Eastern Front Medal in the magazine „Uniform Market", Issue 6, 1943.*

Source: Uniform Market

Michael Hornung Collection





A contemporary stamp for the Eastern Front Medal from an unknown manufacturer. ▲▶

MANUFACTURERS

As the number of awards of the Eastern Front Medal went into the millions - estimates of different sources are 2.5 - 3 million - it was an enormous undertaking by the manufacturers of awards. The metalworking and jewelry industries also produced awards during the war to help meet the demand. The fact that the demand was so high for these awards meant that this was a lucrative opportunity – much like producing wound badges. This is reflected in the resulting research for this book. A total of 53 manufacturers of the award could be proven by marked medals or packaging bags. Since there are also countless other unmarked (or marked) variants, it is probable that the number of manufacturers who made this medal is far greater than what is shown here. There may also be existing medals from manufacturers that were previously completely unknown.

In the following part of this book, all medals and packaging bags of the proven manufacturers are presented in detail, with the exception of three manufacturer variants. The basic structure used to present these variants is the manufacturer list with their manufacturer numbers, which were assigned to them by the Presidential Office for Manufacturers. The aforementioned three variants of the manufacturers "Frank & Reif" (PK number 12), "Eduard Görlach & Söhne" (PK number 51) and "Bavarian Main Munich Mint" (PK number 77) were unable to be shown due to their extreme rarity. None of these types could be located for use in this work.

The publication "The Awards of the Heer" by Dietrich March and Bernd Hartmann include other manufacturers (PK-numbers 21, 22, 35, 41.43, 50, 51, 53, 58, 74, 83, and 112) which should have produced the East Medal. Neither pieces with these numbers or packaging bags with their names could be found during the research conducted for this book.

It should also be noted that the Eastern Front Medal was always delivered in packaging bags ("pulp bags"). Cases for these awards are unknown.

◀ *Who produced the Eastern Front Medal? Especially for pieces without a manufacturer's mark, the probability is great that there were many manufacturers, some of them still unknown.*

1.1.1 - Manufacturer 1 – Deschler & Sohn / Munich

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.35 mm*
Width:	*36.00 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The piece shown has a high manufacturing quality. Ribbon rings made of non-ferrous metal occur in early pieces. Pieces from this manufacturer are found very often on the collectors' market due to a large hoard find.*

Michael Falk Collection

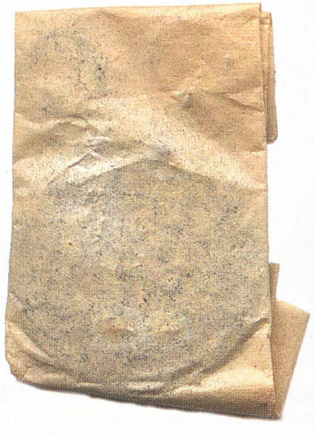
The eagle's lower left wing has four raised points. Presumably there was damage in the stamping tool. However, early pieces with ribbon rings made of non-ferrous metal do not show this. ▼▶

◀▲ *The letters on the back inscription show serifs.*

Deschler & Sohn used a standard red-brown bag with front-side stamp and the name of the company on the reverse. ▼▶

Dimensions: *104 x 57 mm*

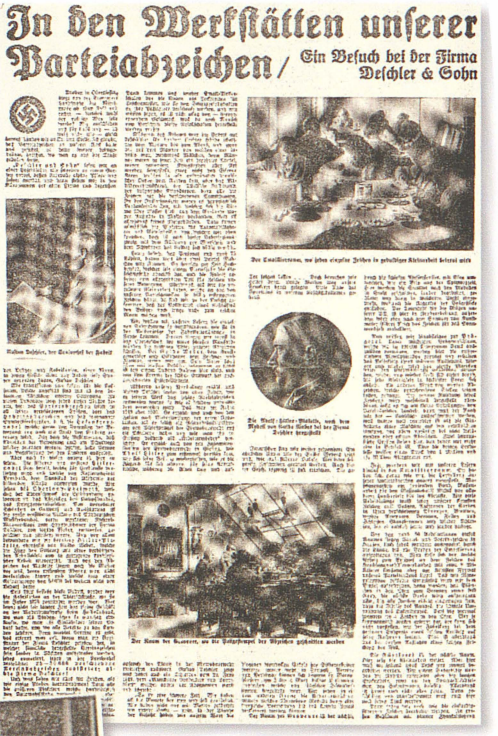
Michael Falk Collection



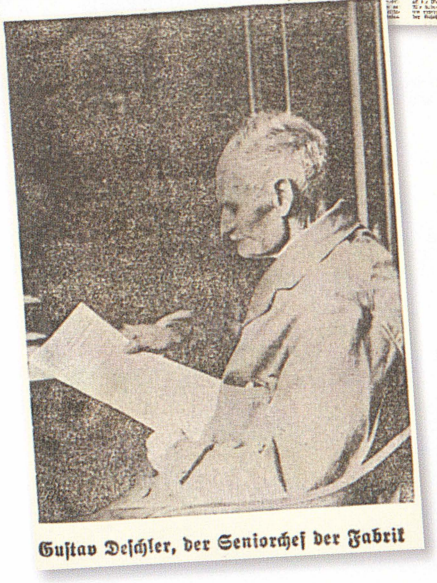
◀▲ *An untouched set from the manufacturer Deschler & Sohn of Munich. The medal was wrapped in light wrapping paper. Sets such as these were found several years ago,along with other awards, as part of the Deschler hoard.*

Sascha Weber Collection

An article from the newspaper "Munich's Latest News" from the year 1933. Here the company Deschler & Sohn was presented as a workshop which created the party badges. ▶



In den Werkstätten unserer Parteiabzeichen / Ein Besuch bei der Firma Deschler & Sohn



Gustav Deschler, der Seniorchef der Fabrik

◀ *This image shows Senior Chief Gustav Deschler of the Deschler and Sohn firm in his factory in 1933.*

Munich City Archives - „Müchener Neueste Nachrichten"

Die Adolf-Hitler-Plakette, nach dem Modell von Guido Weber bei der Firma Deschler hergestellt

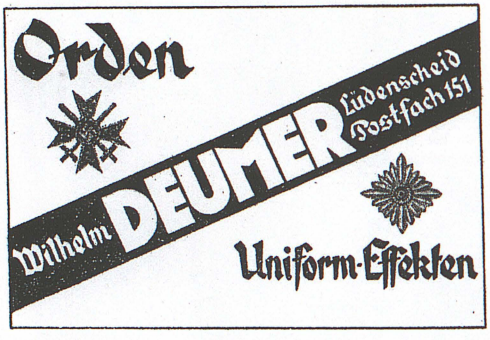
◀▼ *These highly interesting contemporary illustrations from the "MNN"-Zeitung show the "Adolf Hitler plaque" made by Deschler & Sohn; the space of the engravers; and the enamelling work area. All images likely come from the year 1933.*

Munich City Archives - „Müchener Neueste Nachrichten“

Der Raum der Graveure, wo die Prägestempel der Abzeichen geschnitten werden

Der Emaillierraum, wo jedes einzelne Zeichen in geduldiger Kleinarbeit betreut wird

1. 2.1 - MANUFACTURER 3 – WILHELM DEUMER / LÜDENSCHEID



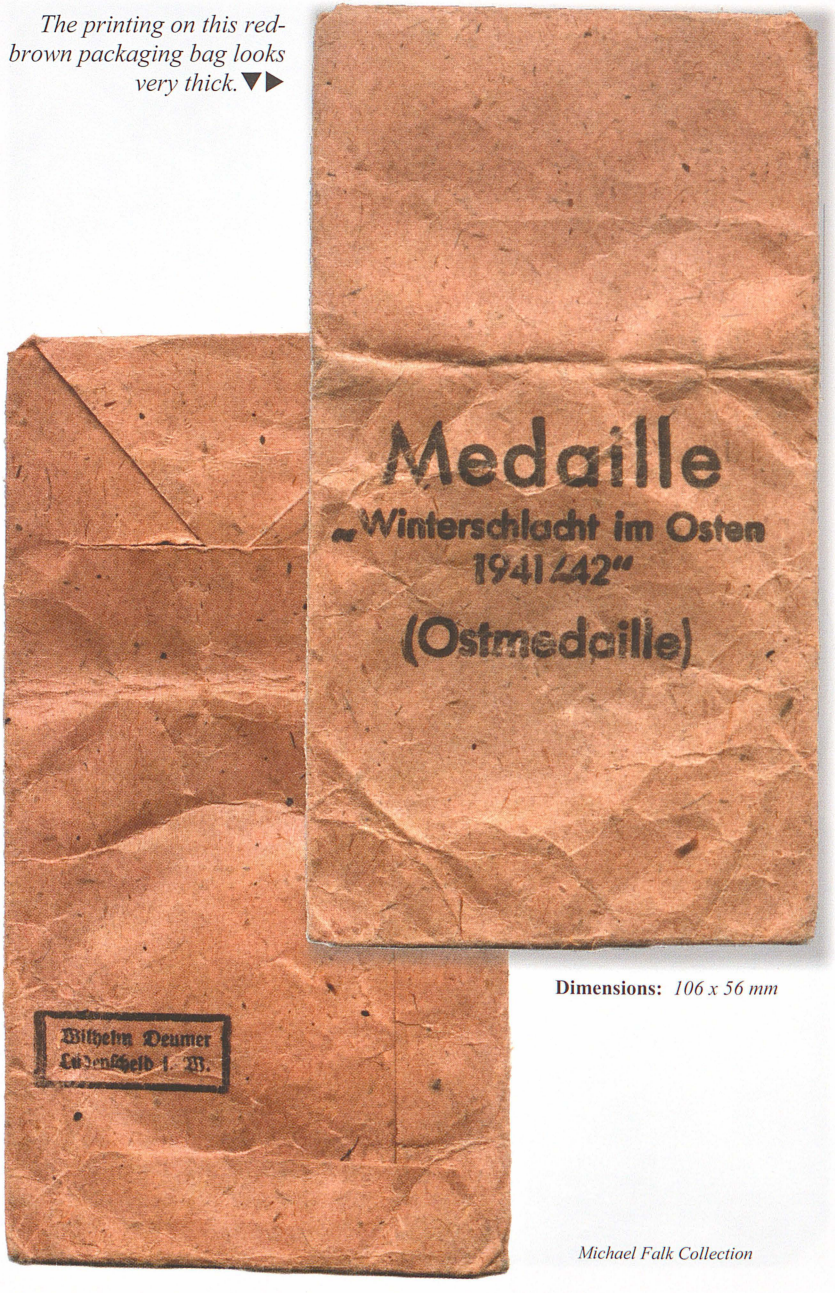
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.20 mm*
Width:	*36.00 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Buntmetal*
Remarks:	*The piece was stamped with a high degree of quality. The hallmark in the ribbon ring can be clearly seen. It is somewhat common on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The eagle impresses with its clear and detailed design. ▼▶

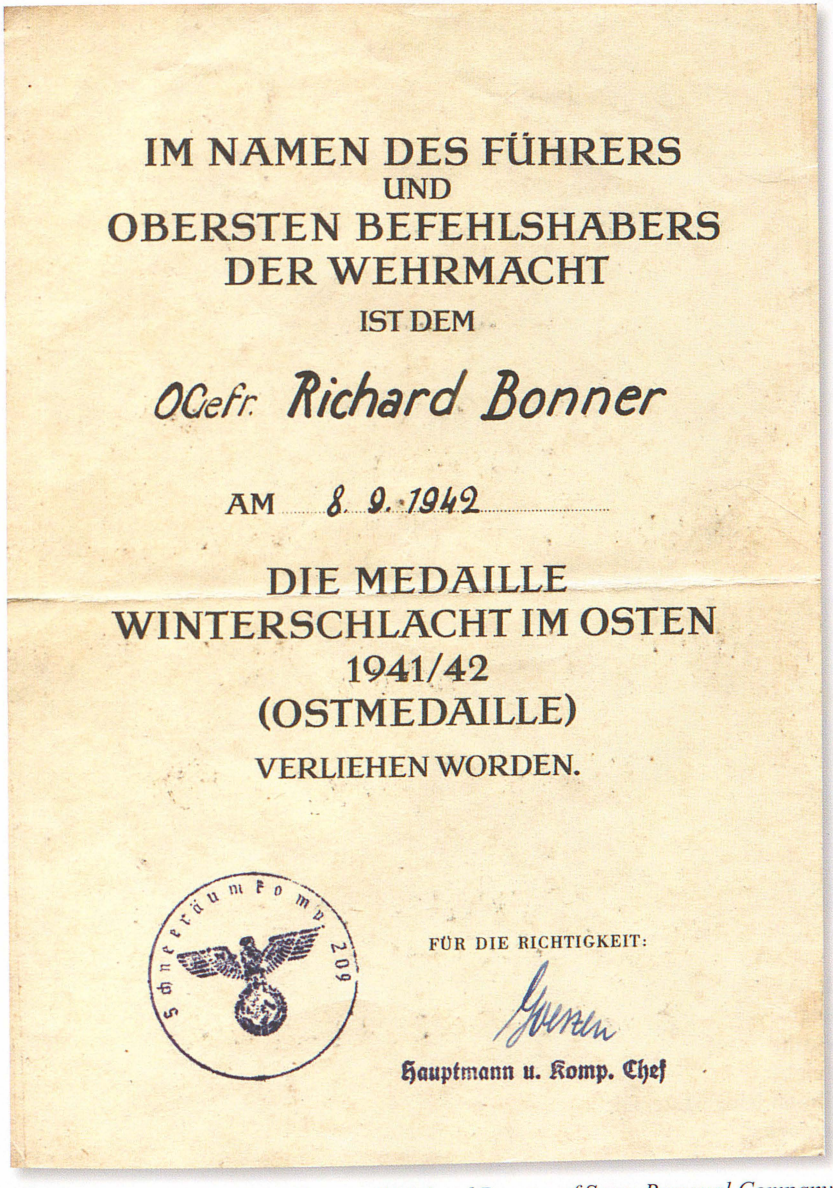
◀▲ The letter "S" has its own unique shape. The numeral "42" is not aligned with the numeral "1941".

The printing on this red-brown packaging bag looks very thick. ▼▶



Dimensions: *106 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection



IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

OGefr. Richard Bonner

AM 8. 9. 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

Schneeräum Komp. 209

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:

Hauptmann u. Komp. Chef

▲ *An award certificate for Corporal Richard Bonner of Snow Removal Company 209. Simple standard form. Format DIN A5. Certified by the company commander of Snow Removal Company 209.*

1.3.1 - MANUFACTURER 4 – STEINHAUER & LÜCK / LÜDENSCHEID

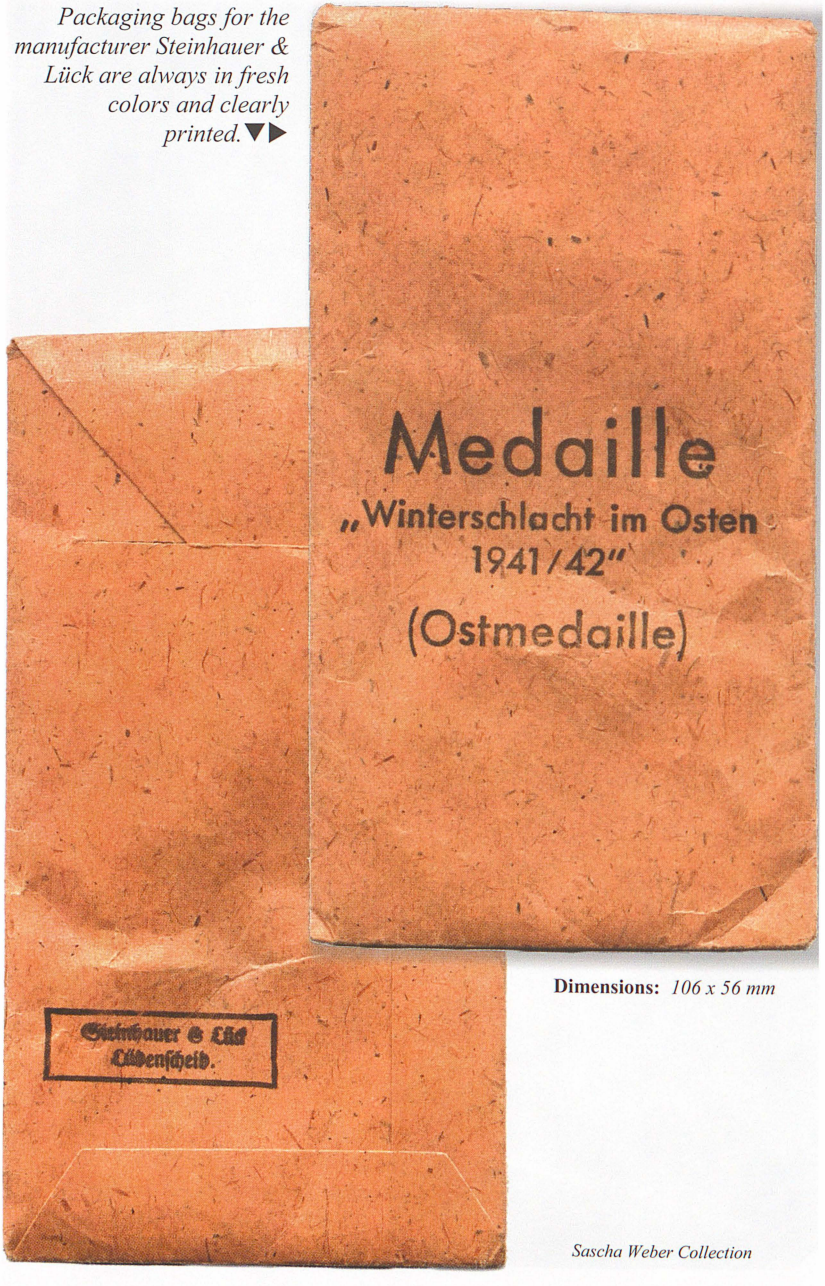
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.15 mm*
Width:	*35.50 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces by Steinhauer & Lück are always in very good condition. These are found often on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

A laurel is seen in the gap above the lower leg of the swastika. ▼▶

◀▲ *The number "2" is slightly tilted backwards and has a large gap between it and the number "4".*

Packaging bags for the manufacturer Steinhauer & Lück are always in fresh colors and clearly printed.▼▶



Dimensions: *106 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

The parts of the Red Army who were completely surprised surrendered by the thousands and were marched into captivity. ▶

Sascha Weber Collection

◀ *The onset of mud in autumn brought the German advance to a halt. With the first frost, the main roads became passable again.*

Sascha Weber Collection

To survive the winter, the soldiers quartered themselves in the back areas of local houses. The people were partially hospitable to the German soldiers they took in. ▶

Sascha Weber Collection

1.4.1 - MANUFACTURER 5 – HERMANN WERNSTEIN / JENA-LÖBSTEDT

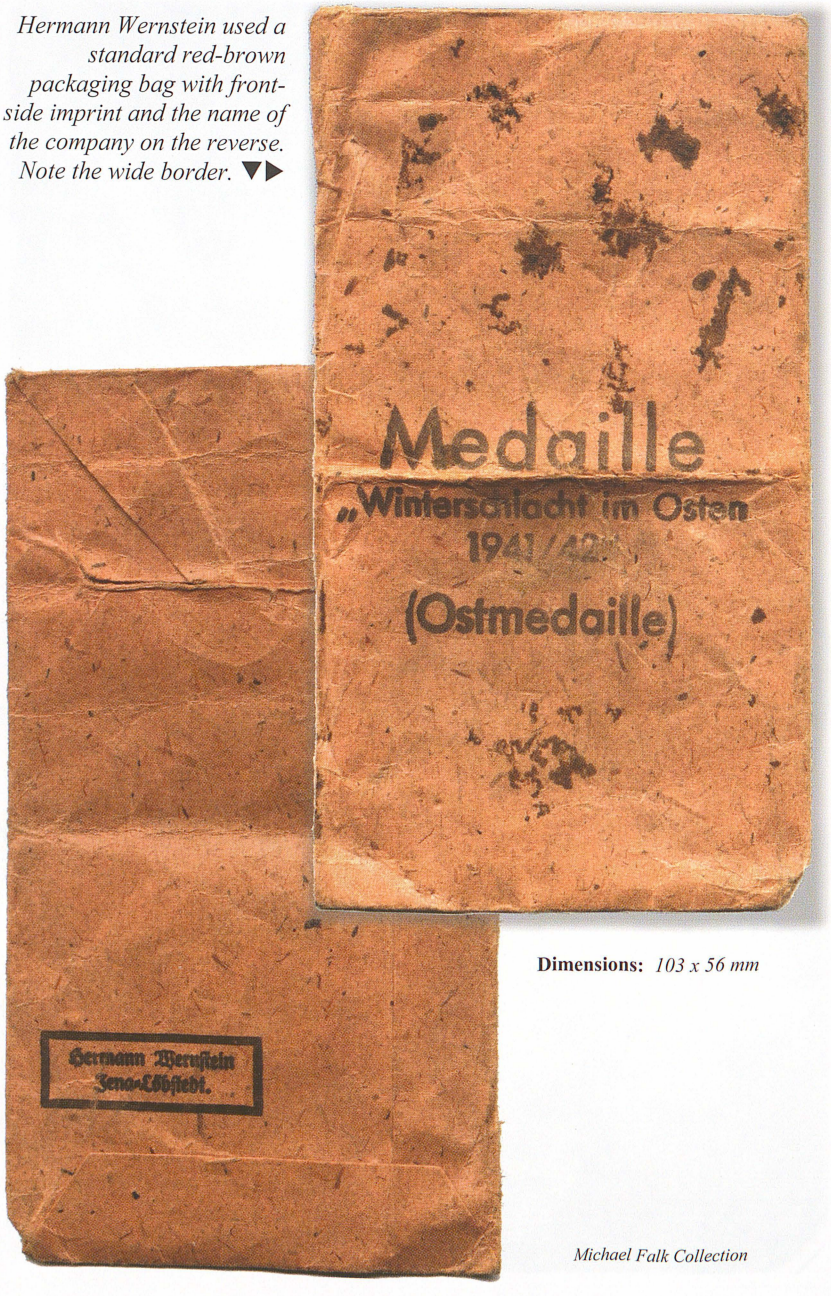
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.00 mm*
Width:	*35.75 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*A very high quality manufactured piece. There are hardly any scraps of material or overhangs to be found. Pieces of this manufacturer are very common.*

Michael Falk Collection

In this piece, the upper part of the laurel branch is covered by half of the swastika. The swastika also has sharp edges. ▼▶

◀▲ *The letters are massive and bold here. In particular, the letter "O" stands out immediately.*

Hermann Wernstein used a standard red-brown packaging bag with front-side imprint and the name of the company on the reverse. Note the wide border. ▼▶



Dimensions: *103 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

Collection: Michael Lobbe

Besitzzeugnis

Dem

Feldwebel

Eberhard M ü l l e r

Stab 95. Infanterie - Division

wurde die

Medaille

für die Winterschlacht im Osten

1941/42

»Ostmedaille«

verliehen.

Divisions-Gefechtsstand, den 31. Juli 1942

In Vertretung des Div.-Kommandeurs

Oberst

▲ *An award certificate for Feldwebel (Staff Sergeant) Eberhard Müller of the staff of the 95th Infantry Division. Printed form with lettering. Format DIN A5. Signed by a Colonel on behalf of the Division Commander.*

1.5.1 - MANUFACTURER 6 – FRITZ ZIMMERMAN / STUTTGART

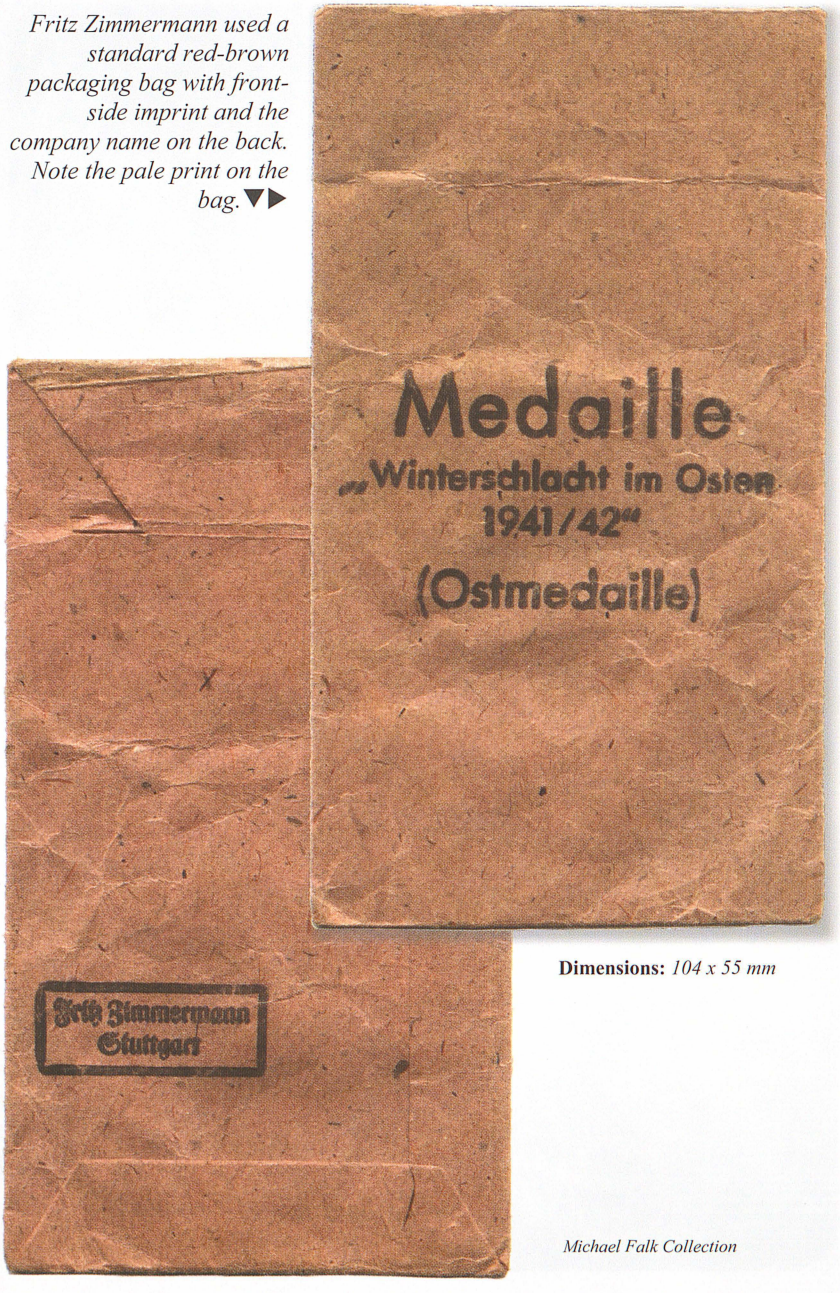
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.15 mm*
Width:	*36.70mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The number "6" of the hallmark appears chopped off at the top of the head. Please note the period after the number. Pieces by Fritz Zimmermann can be found often on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Pieces by Fritz Zimmermann were made of very high quality. A example of this is the very well-pronounced ventilation hole in the steel helmet on the front and back. ▼▶

◀▲ *The very good blackening is noteworthy. The distance between the number "2" and the number "4" is greater than with the other numbers. The back laurel branch has excellent detail.*

Fritz Zimmermann used a standard red-brown packaging bag with front-side imprint and the company name on the back. Note the pale print on the bag. ▼▶



Dimensions: *104 x 55 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

Oberfeldwebel (Master Sergeant) Franz Haberl wore the ribbon to the "Eastern Front Medal" below the ribbon to the Iron Cross 2nd class. Franz Haberl was a platoon leader in a Panzerjäger (Anti-tank) detachment and fell at the age of 27 in fierce fighting in the vicinity of Orel.▶

Archive: Andrew Straube

◀ *An unknown soldier and recipient of the Close Combat Clasp in Bronze. He correctly wears the ribbon to the "Eastern Front Medal" below the Ribbon for the Iron Cross 2nd class.*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.6.1 - MANUFACTURER 7 – PAUL MEYBAUER / BERLIN

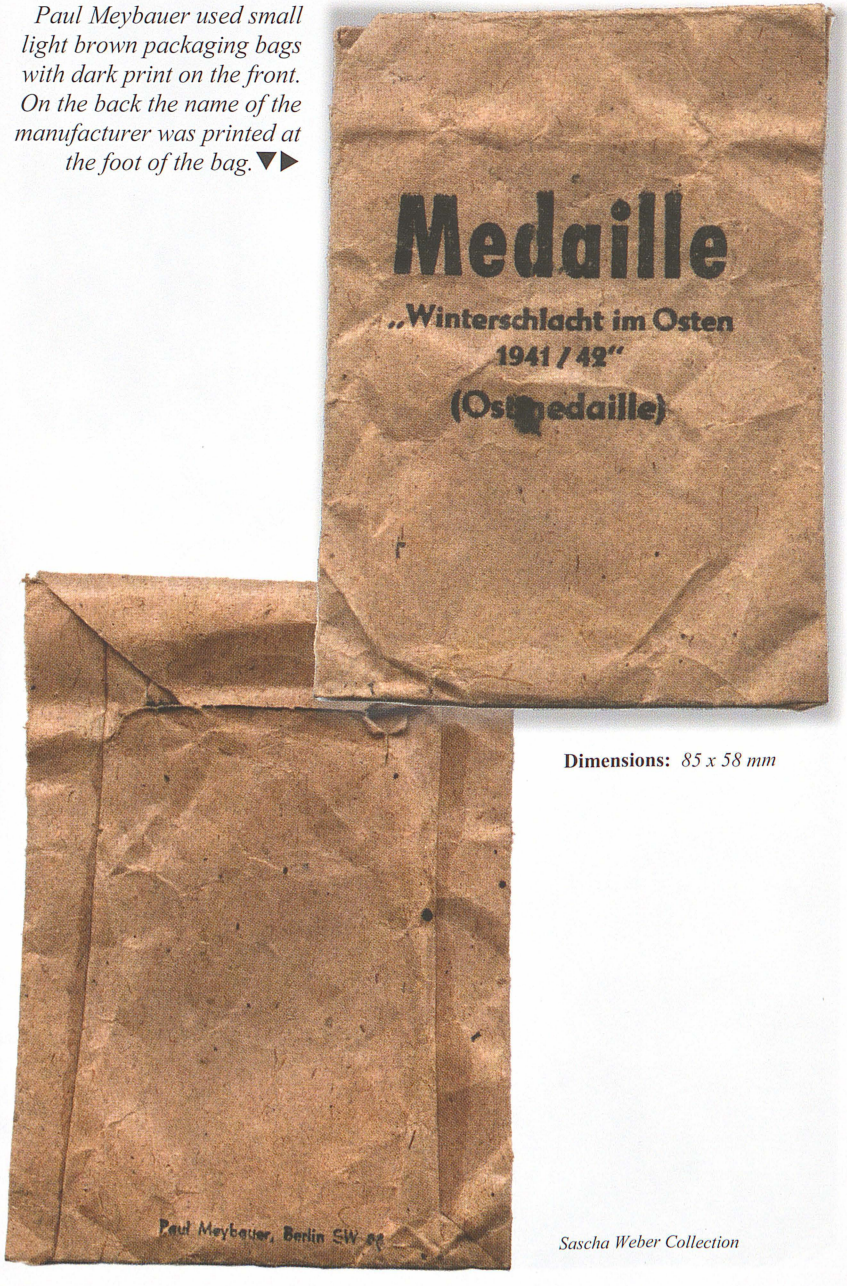
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.60 mm*
Width:	*36.60 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*This piece shown has a slightly blistered surface. Pieces produced by Meybauer are found often on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

On this piece, the drop-shaped tip of the front laurel branch draws attention. The swastika looks solid and massive. ▼▶

◀▲ The letters in the words "Winterschlacht" were executed very small and narrow.

Paul Meybauer used small light brown packaging bags with dark print on the front. On the back the name of the manufacturer was printed at the foot of the bag. ▼▶



Dimensions: *85 x 58 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

▲ *A magnificent certificate of award for Oberstabsarzt (Major in Medical Corps) Dr. med. Kölle of Medical Company 2, 267th Infantry Division. Ornamental print with the coat of arms of the division. Format DIN A4. Certified by the divisional doctor.*

1.7.1 - MANUFACTURER 8 – FERDINAND HOFFSTÄTTER / BONN

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.50 mm*
Width:	*35.90 mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Buntmetal*
Remarks:	*The blackening and external silvering have faded away. It is interesting that the ribbon ring was formed on this piece from non-ferrous metal. Pieces produced by Hoffstätter are somewhat rare.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The belly of the eagle looks very impressive. This piece has the remains of a protective coating. ▼▶

◀▲ *The laurel branch above the sword has a large berry in the middle. The letters are decorated with serifs.*

The print on both the front and back is shifted to the left edge. ▼▶

Dimensions: *103 x 57 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

Ferdinand Hoffstätter - Company History:

In 1818, court jeweler Ferdinand Hoffstätter founded a "Orders and Medals" business on Sternstrasse in Bonn. The city denied his request for expansion, so due to a lack of space, in 1906 the company relocated to Beuel Limperich on the right bank of the Rhine.
During World War 1 the firm produced both classes of the Iron Cross. In the Weimar Republic after the war, it was necessary to stop the production of Orders and Medals and increase production of club and association medals and badges. With the seizure of power by the National Socialists and the creation of new awards, increased production of medals and decorations resumed. In 1938, the great-grandson of Ferdinand Hoffstätter, Lorenz Hoffstätter, took over management of the company.
During the Second World War, the company also became active in the production of ammunition. Additionally, a branch was established in Vienna and was managed by the brother-in-law of Lorenz Hoffstätter. When World War II ended, Hoffstätter was interned. He was released in 1947. Although his factory in Beuel Limperich had been destroyed, he managed to rebuild the business in a short period of time. With the establishment of new awards such as The Federal Cross of Merit, the company did not have to wait long for lucrative orders to start coming in. He found himself in the center of the new capital city of the Republic, and he associated with many of the political elite. Even then US President Richard Nixon counted Lorenz Hoffstätter among his friends.
In 1987 the company went bankrupt and had to be sold. In 1992, the firm's factory in Beuel-Limperich was demolished and the new owner moved to the left bank of the Rhine, retaining the company name.

◀ *Lorenz Hoffstätter was born in 1904 in Bonn. He completed an engraving apprenticeship in Mainz. He then attended courses in heraldic drawing and modeling at the School of Applied Arts in Wiesbaden, completing a commercial education. In 1928 he joined the NSDAP and in 1929 he became Kreisleiter (County Leader) of the NSDAP for the District of Sieg Kreis (Bonn). In 1931 he became a member of the city council of Bonn. In 1932 he became a member of the Prussian Assembly, and on November 12, 1933 a member of the German Parliament. Hoffstätter bore the title of a "Kreisleiter ehrenhalber" (County Leader with honors). After the war he was classified as a "follower" and not prosecuted. His brown-shirt past and offenses became public through an article published by "Die Stern" (The Star) in 1968. Lorenz Hoffstätter died in 1987.*

1.8.1 - MANUFACTURER 10 – FÖRSTER & BARTH / PFORZHEIM

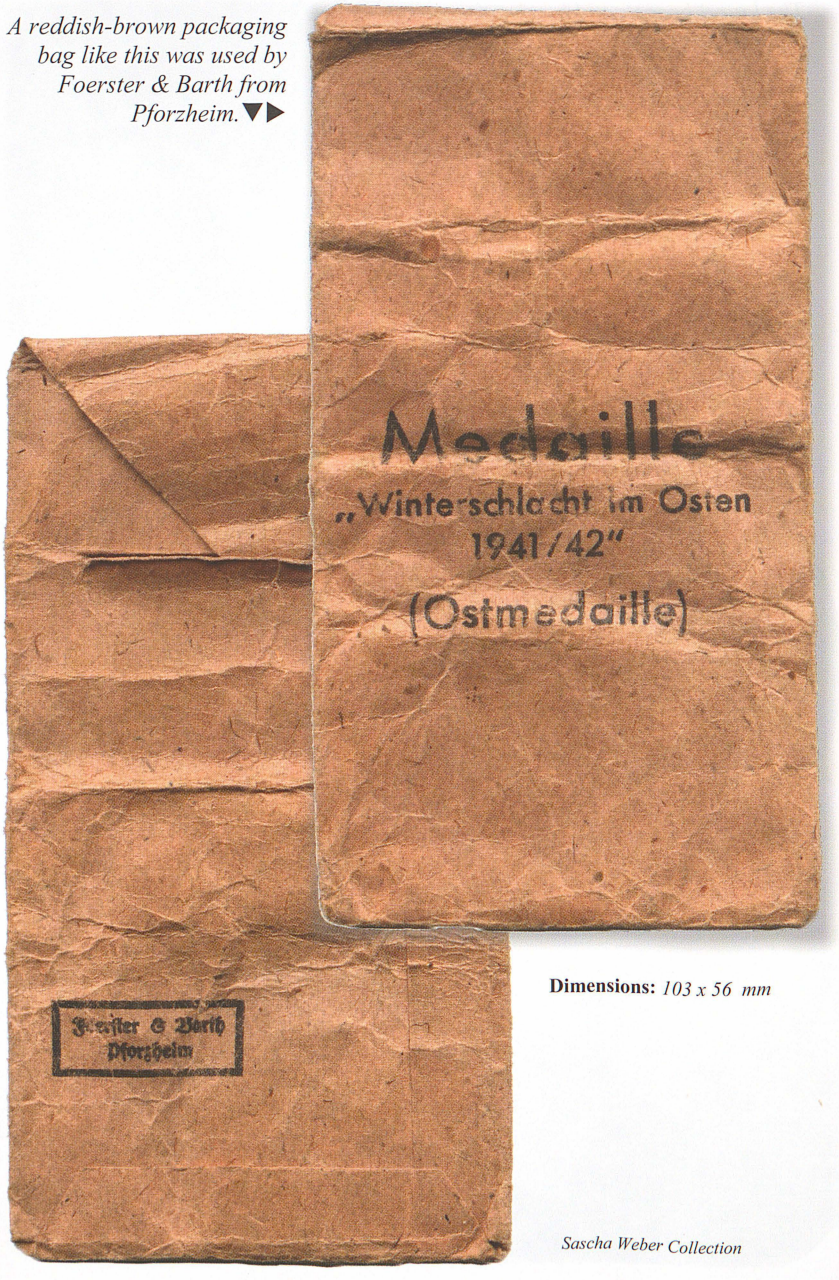
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.50 mm*
Width:	*36.25 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces of this manufacturer always have a smaller diameter ribbon ring. The medal has remnants of a protective varnish coating. These are found often on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The laurel branch and berries on the front are done in great detail. Note the smaller ribbon ring compared to pieces from other manufacturers. ▼▶

◀▲ The letters have curved ends and serifs. This is especially noticeable in the letter „M" in "IM OSTEN".

A reddish-brown packaging bag like this was used by Foerster & Barth from Pforzheim. ▼▶



Dimensions: *103 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

An award certificate for Oberfeldwebel of the Military Police Heinrich Schopmann. Form in DIN A5 format. Narrow, Latin letters. Certified by a Lieutenant of the Wehrbezirkskommando (Territory Administration) Münster. ▶

Michael Lobbe Collection

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT

IST DEM
Oberfeldwebel der Feldgend.
Heinrich Schopmann
geb. 11.5.09

AM 11.11.42

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:
Oberstleutnant

IM NAMEN DES FÜHR
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

Oberleutnant Eugen M a i l ä n d e r
3./ Kampfgeschwader 100

AM 27. August 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:
Major und Kommandeur.

◀ *Another award certificate, this one for Leutnant (Lieutenant) Eugen Milano of the 3rd / Kampfgeschwader 100.*
Standard form in DIN A5 format. Certified by the commander of the First Group of the Kampfgeschwader 100, Major Paul Claas (Knight's Cross on 14.03.1943).

Michael Lobbe Collection

1.9.1 - MANUFACTURER 11 – GROSSMANN & CO. / WIEN

From the state telephone book 1942:

GROßMANN & CO.
KNOPFWAREN-FABRIK
PETER-SCHWARZ-GASSE 11
WIEN XV/101
FERNRUF R3 52 06

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.70 mm*
Width:	*36.60 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The manufacturer mark was mostly stamped transversely across the ribbon ring. Grossmann & Co. produced many "Eastern Front Medals". These are very common on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The upper opening in the swastika has a rounded edge in the interior. Overall, the eagle was designed in great detail. ▼▶

◀▲ *The laurel branch of the back has no berries in the area of the sword. The lettering looks sharp and edgy.*

Sascha Weber Collection

Dimensions:
123 x102 mm

▲ *Grossmann & Co. used an early, wide, light brown packaging bag with a front-side stamp, and on the back, the identification of the manufacturer.*

Vorläufiges Besitzzeugnis

Dem Matr. Gefr. Suck (Adolf)

wurde am 20. Nov. 1942

die **Ostmedaille**

verliehen.

O. U., den 10. Febr. 1943

Der Hafenkommandant Kertsch
Im Auftrage:

Sonderf. (Kptlt. M. A.)
u. Komp.-Chef

▲ *A provisional award certificate for Matrosengefreiten (Seaman Apprentice) Adolf Suck. Form in DIN A6 format. Certified on behalf of the port commandant of Kerch (Crimea) by a special leader and company commander.*

1.10.1 - MANUFACTURER 13 – GUSTAV BREHMER / MARKNEUKIRCHEN

From the state telephone book 1942:

BREHMER, GUSTAV
METALLWAREN-FABRIK
BIENENGARTEN 6
MARKNEUKIRCHEN (SACHSEN)
FERNRUF 20 62

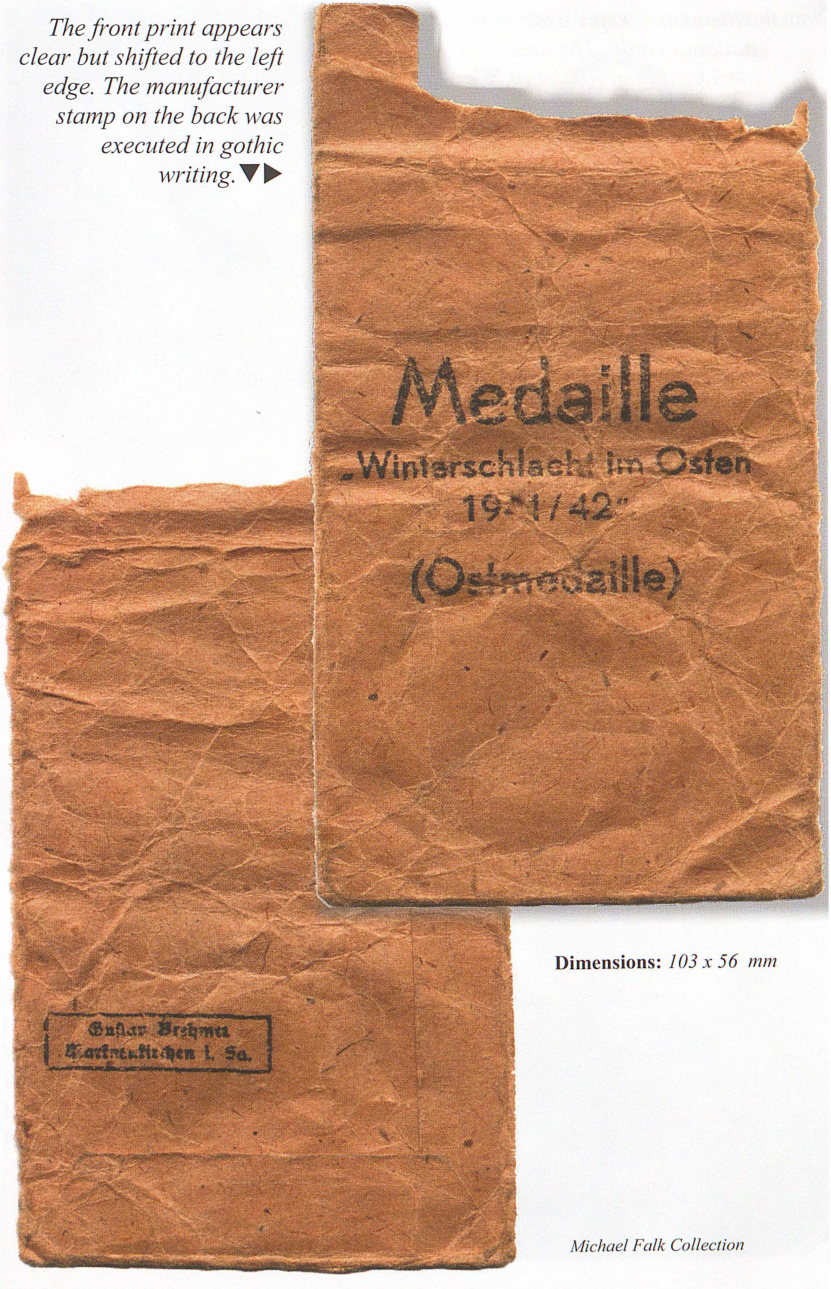
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.30 mm*
Width:	*36.10 mm*
Weight:	*25.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The numeral "1" of the mark can easily be confused with a numeral "7". War Merit Crosses of this manufacturer reveal the identical defect in the mark. These pieces are common on the market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Note the distinctive expression of the national eagle. The head was designed in great detail. ▼▶

◀▲ *The back laurel branch was also very detailed. Note the berries. The embossing is clear and sharp.*

The front print appears clear but shifted to the left edge. The manufacturer stamp on the back was executed in gothic writing. ▼▶



Dimensions: *103 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

An unknown member of the police (in front line service) with newly delivered winter clothing. The picture was taken in the winter of 1942/43 in a photo studio in Russia.

1.11.1 - MANUFACTURER 14 – L. CHRISTIAN LAUER / NÜRNBERG-BERLIN

From the state telephone book 1942:

LAUER L. CHR.
GEGR. 1790
KLEINWEIDENMÜHLE 12
NÜRNBERG
FERNRUF 6 28 07 U. 6 28 08

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.15 mm*
Width:	*35.70 mm*
Weight:	*17.00 mm*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Buntmetal or Iron*
Remarks:	*The Lauer company manufactured awards on original tools until the spring of 1946 to provide souvenirs for soldiers of the US Army. These are very common on the collectors' market.*

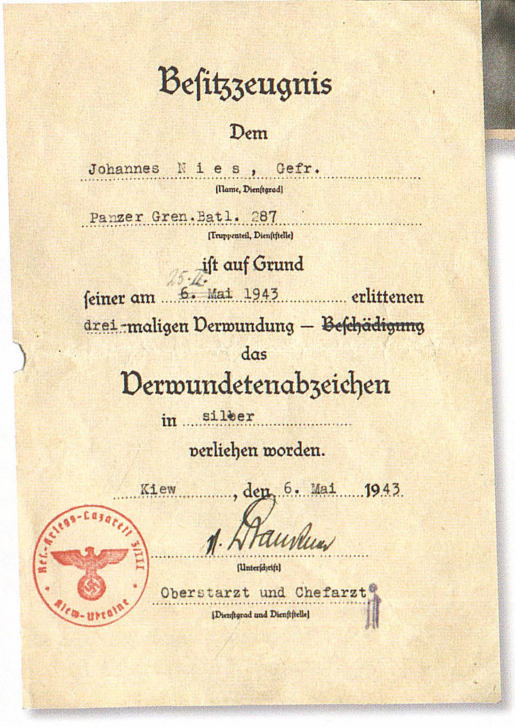
Michael Falk Collection

The lower edge of the helmet rolls from bottom to top and looks curved. The national eagle has a strikingly distinctive expression. ▼▶

◀▲ *The last digit "1" of the year "1941" is smaller in comparison to the first digit. The sword hilt is particularly detailed here.*

Shown below is a part of the estate of Obergefreiten (Senior Lance Corporal) Johannes "Hans" Nies. Johannes Nies was a member of Sonderverband 287. Previously, he was member of Rifle Regiment 1 in the "Eastern Campaign" and was awarded the Eastern Front Medal. The picture was taken shortly after the promotion to Obergefreiten in the summer of 1943. ▶

Private Collection:



Besitzzeugnis

Dem

Johannes N i e s , Gefr.
(Name, Dienstgrad)

Panzer Gren.Batl. 287
(Truppenteil, Dienststelle)

ist auf Grund

seiner am 25.II. 6. Mai 1943 erlittenen

drei-maligen Verwundung — ~~Beschädigung~~

das

Verwundetenabzeichen

in silber

verliehen worden.

Kiew, den 6. Mai 1943

Ref.-Kriegs-Lazarett 3/XII Kiew-Ukraine

[Unterschrift]

Oberstarzt und Chefarzt
(Dienstgrad und Dienststelle)

◀ *Here is his award document for the wound badge in silver. He served in the 287th Panzer Grenadier Battalion, which belonged to Sonderverband 287. This unit was to advance across the Caucasus to the African theater of war and secure important oil wells in the Middle East. The unit made it to Terek, near the then Persian border, but had to fall back to the Mius front.*

Private Collection:

The award certificate for the wound badge in black for the then Schützen (Private) Johannes Nies. Next is a certificate indicating he fulfilled the requirements for the bestowal of the Eastern Front Medal. Finally, an extremely rare sleeve insignia of Sonderverband 287/288 which was worn by Johannes Nies. A rare, genuine piece!▼▶

Private Collection:

Besitzzeugnis

Dem

Schützen Johannes N i e s
[Name, Dienstgrad]

4./Schützen - Regiment 1
[Truppenteil, Dienststelle]

ist auf Grund

seiner am 19.Oktober 1941 erlittenen

ein.maligen Verwundung oder Beschädigung

das

Verwundetenabzeichen

in s c h w a r z

verliehen worden.

Kalinin, den 30.Oktober 1941

[Unterschrift]
Oberst und Rgt. - Kdr.
Schützen - Regiment 1.
[Dienstgrad und Dienststelle]

Dienststelle der
Feldpostnummer 26708

Im Felde, den 27.8.1942.

B e s c h e i n i g u n g

Der Gefr. Hans N i e s hat in der Zeit vom 25.1.42 bis 19.3.42 bei der obigen Dienststelle an den Winterkampfhandlungen teilgenommen. Die Voraussetzungen fuer die Verleihung der Ostmedaille sind bei dem Gefreiter Nies erfuellt.

Hauptmann u. Kp.- Chef.

1.12.1 - MANUFACTURER 15 – FRIEDRICH ORTH / WIEN

From the state telephone book 1942:

ORTH, FRIEDRICH
PRÄGEANSTALT
SCHMALZHOFGASSE 18
WIEN VI/56
FERNRUF B2 55 24

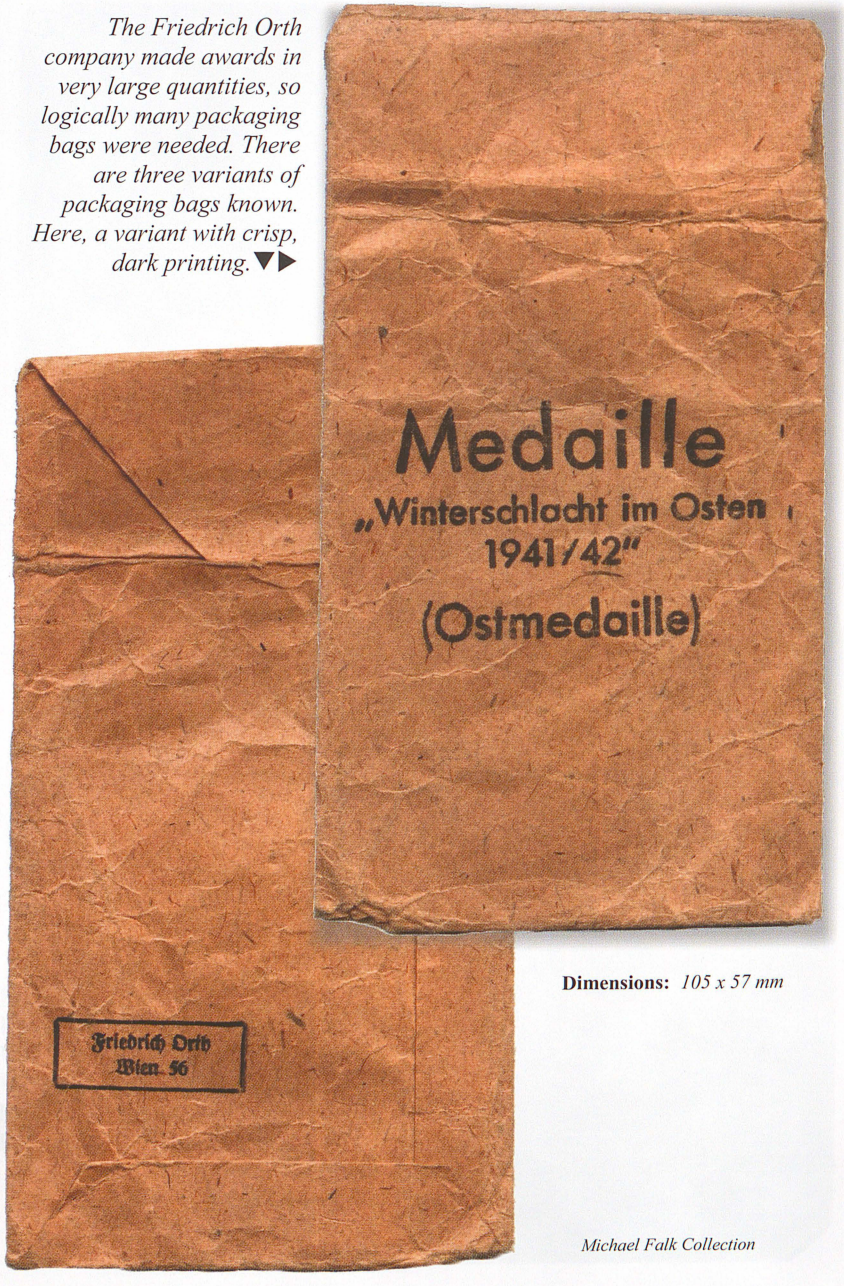
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*43.95 mm*
Width:	*35.80 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces from this manufacturer always have a grainy, rough surface. These are very common on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The surface of the medal is rough and grainy. Also note the flowing breakthroughs on the swastika. ▼▶

◀▲ The claws of the national eagle are very coarse and undetailed. The "S" in the lettering "IM OSTEN" is slightly inclined to the left.

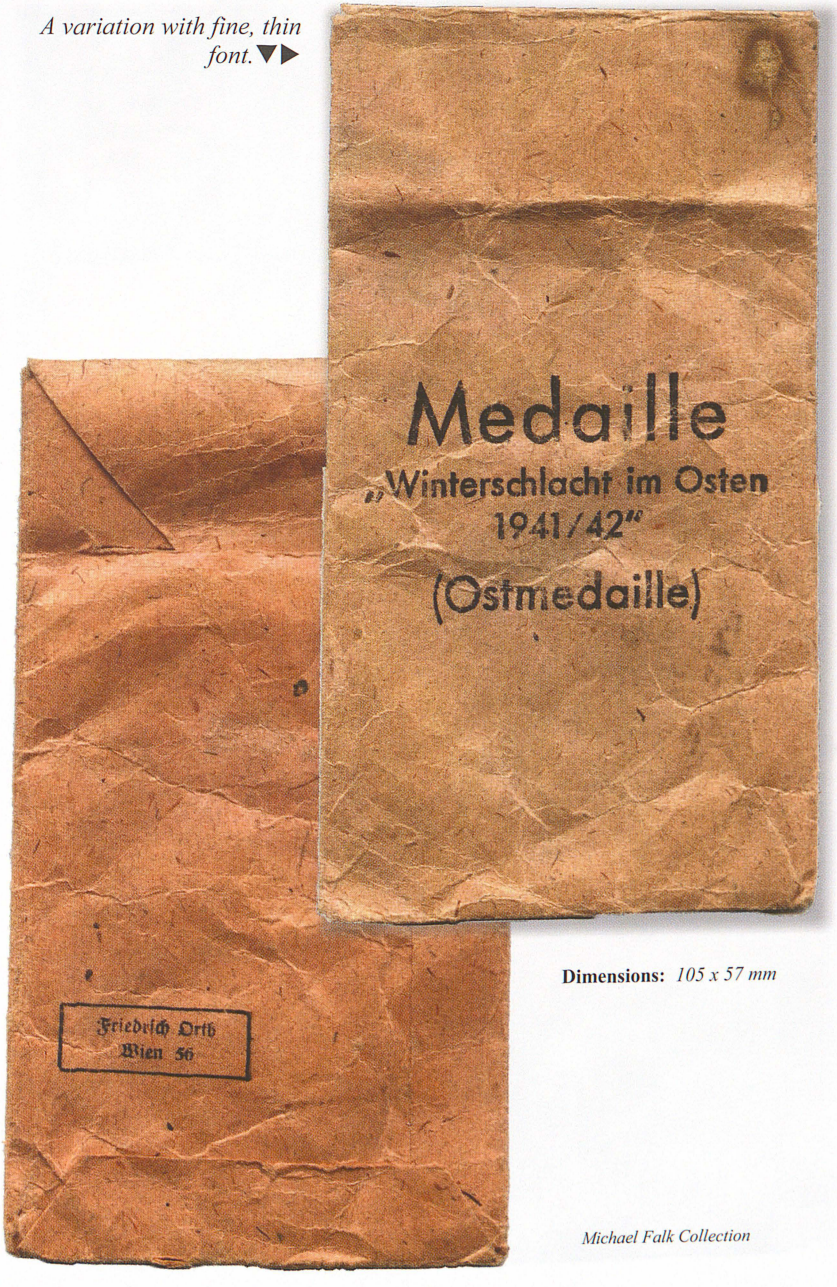
The Friedrich Orth company made awards in very large quantities, so logically many packaging bags were needed. There are three variants of packaging bags known. Here, a variant with crisp, dark printing. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

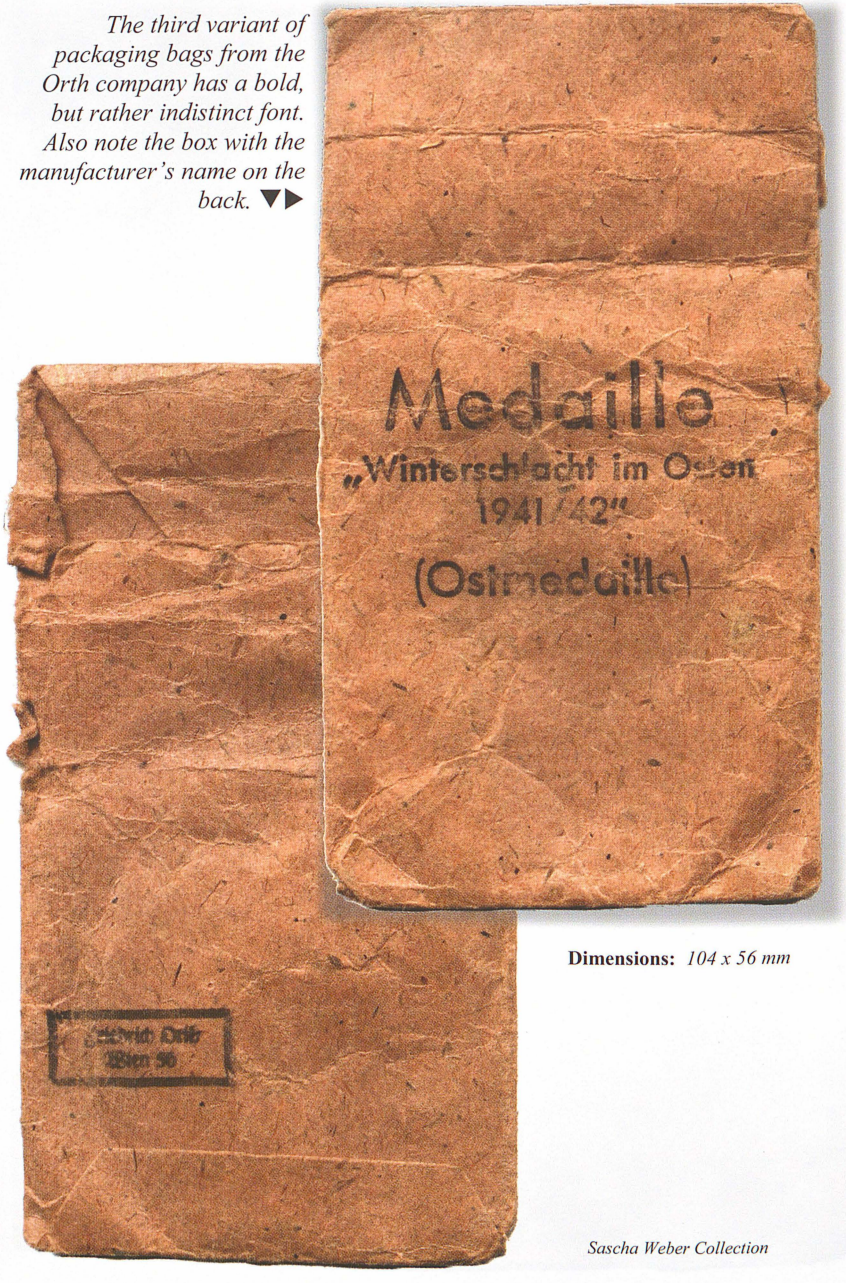
A variation with fine, thin font. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

The third variant of packaging bags from the Orth company has a bold, but rather indistinct font. Also note the box with the manufacturer's name on the back. ▼▶



Dimensions: *104 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

Winter fight on the Eastern Front! Here is a battle between German and Russian soldiers. ▶

Sascha Weber Collection

◀ A Sturmgeschütz III painted in winter camo. The harsh Russian winter made great demands on people and materials.

Sascha Weber Collection

Even the thousands of draft horses (here with a sled) had to endure the harsh winter with temperatures down to -40 F. ▶

Sascha Weber Collection

1.13.1 - MANUFACTURER 18 – KARL WURSTER AG / MARKNEUKIRCHEN

From the state telephone book 1942:

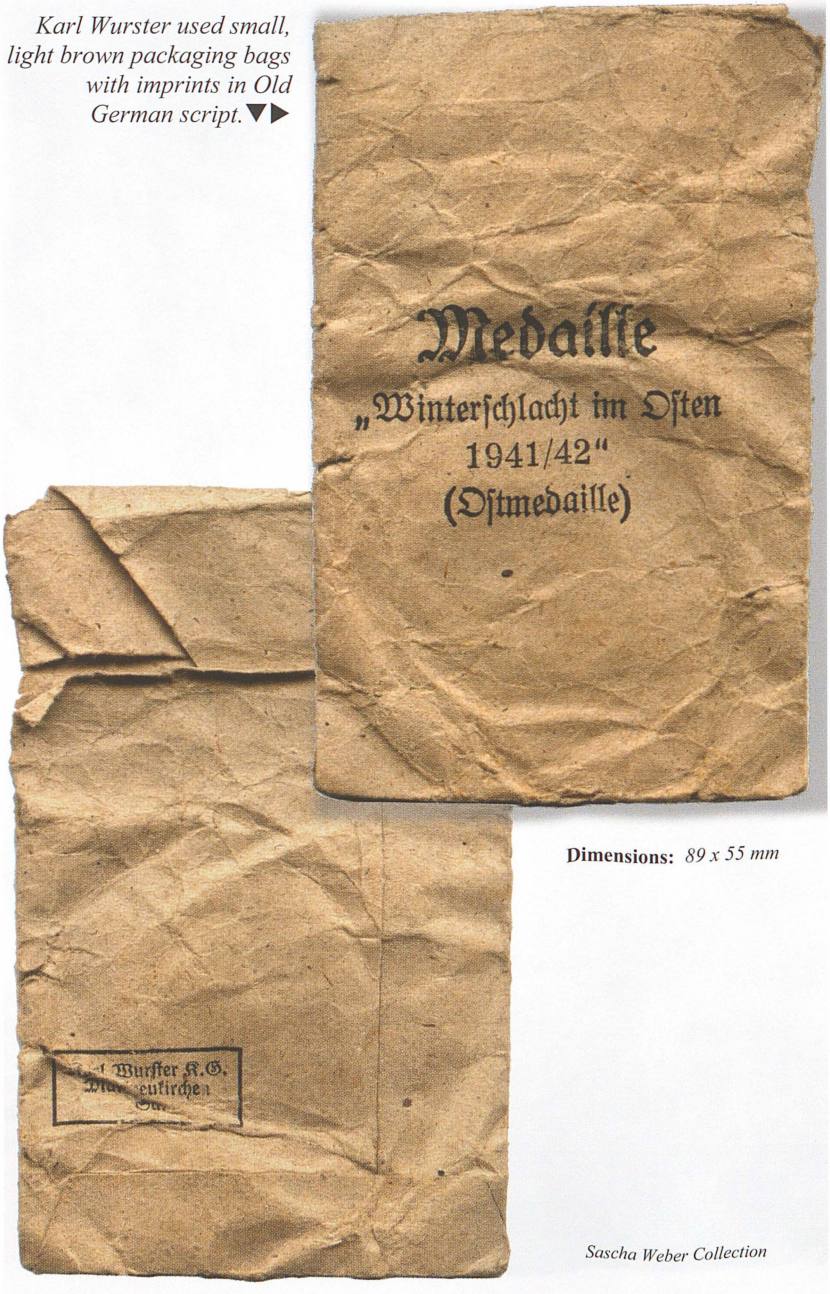
WURSTER, KARL
GRAVIERANSTALT
EGERSTR. 3
MARKNEUKIRCHEN (SACHSEN)
FERNRUF 26 90

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.00 mm*
Width:	*35.40 mm*
Weight:	*17.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Buntmetal*
Remarks:	*This shows age-related blistering. It is relatively common on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

Pieces from this manufacturer basically had excellent embossing quality and good workmanship. However, many pieces have age-related blistering. ▼▶

◀▲ *The letters "H" and "L" in the lettering "Winterschlacht" are very weak and hardly recognizable.*



Karl Wurster used small, light brown packaging bags with imprints in Old German script. ▼▶

Dimensions: *89 x 55 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

SS
DIE
POLIZEI
IM FRONTEINSATZ

1.14.1 - Manufacturer 19 – E. Ferdinand Wiedmann / Frankfurt/Main

From the state telephone book 1942:

Wiedmann E. F.
Vereinsabzeichen u.
Metallwarenfabrik
Schifferstrasse 52/54
Frankfurt (Main)
Fernruf 6 20 41

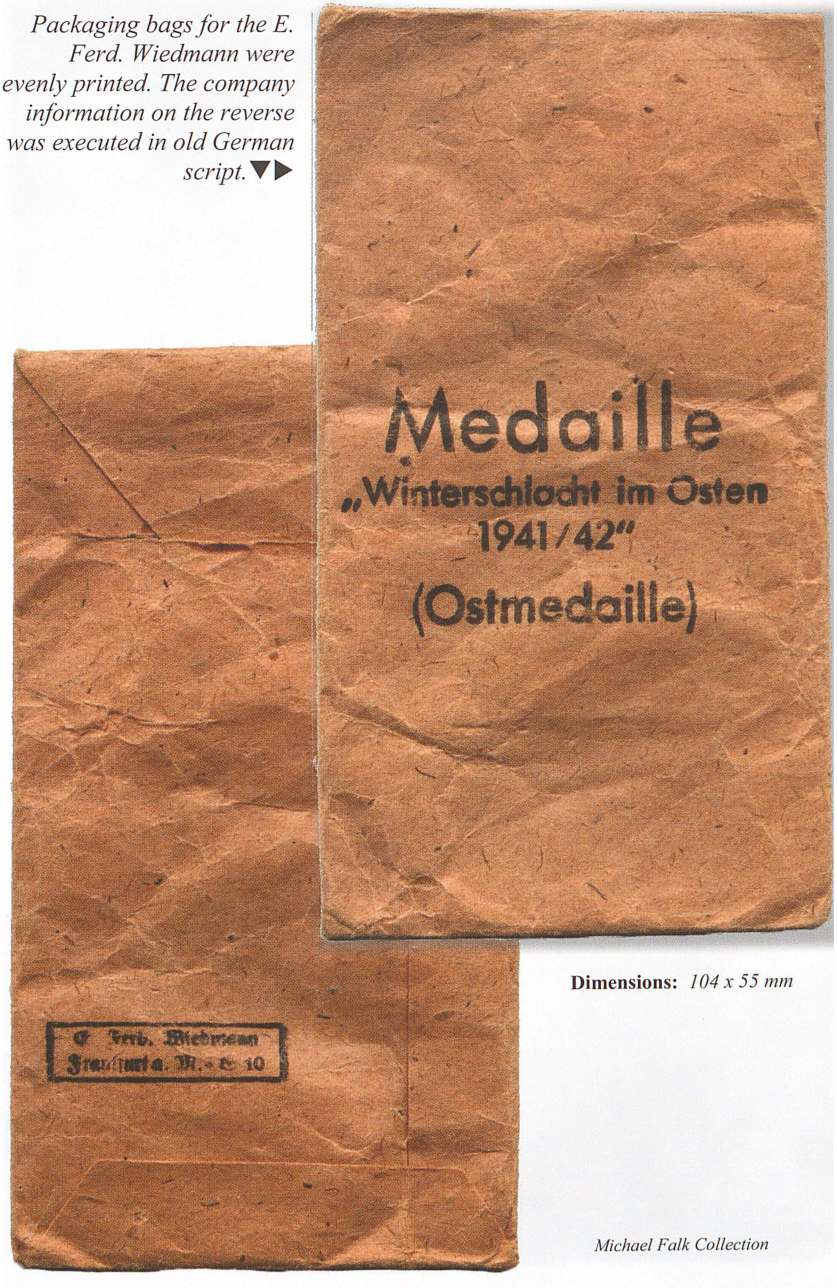
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.85 mm*
Width:	*36.35 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Many pieces of this manufacturer still have a decent, but mostly blistered condition today. These are very common in the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The claws of the eagle have a different size. The right set is smaller than the left one. ▼▶

◀▲ The laurel branch on the back looks stunted and very undetailed. This is particularly noticeable in the sword blade area.

Packaging bags for the E. Ferd. Wiedmann were evenly printed. The company information on the reverse was executed in old German script. ▼▶



Dimensions: *104 x 55 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

Part of the estate of Obergefreiten Hans Müller of the Kraftfahr-Kompanie 251(motorized supply unit). It includes a document awarding the Eastern Front Medal. Certified by a Hauptmann (Captain), Commander of the 251st Div. supply troops.

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

Obergefr. Hans M ü l l e r
Kraftfahr-Kompanie 251

AM 20. Juli 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

Ers. d. Div. Nachrichtentruppen 251

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:
Rittmeister u. Kdr.d.Div.Nsch.Tr. 251

BESITZZEUGNIS

DEM Obergefreiten
(DIENSTGRAD)

Hans M ü l l e r
(VOR- UND ZUNAME)

Kraftfahr-Kompanie 251
(TRUPPENTEIL)

WURDE DAS

KRAFTFAHR-
BEWÄHRUNGSABZEICHEN
IN "S i l b e r"

VERLIEHEN.

O.U., den 1. Sept. 1944
(ORT UND DATUM)

(UNTERSCHRIFT)

Hptm.u.stellv.Kdr.d.Div.Nsch.Tr. 251
(DIENSTGRAD UND DIENSTSTELLUNG)

Ers. d. Div. Nachrichtentruppen 251
(STEMPEL)

Sascha Weber Collection

1.15.1 - MANUFACTURER 20 – C.F. ZIMMERMANN / PFORZHEIM

From the state telephone book 1942:

ZIMMERMANN C.F.
ORDENFABRIK
LUISENSTR. 55
PFORZHEIM
FERNRUF 52 09

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.20 mm*
Width:	*36.15 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The maker's mark is identical in appearance to the ones on German crosses produced by this manufacturer. These are not very common on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The talons of the left claw are larger than the right one. The breast plumage appears undetailed. ▼▶

◀▲ *The inscription is very legible, but the letter "E" of the word "WINTERSCHLACHT" seems stunted.*

The packaging bags of this manufacturer have a pale reddish brown color. The company name is printed in old German script. ▼▶

Dimensions: *104 x 57 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

The 20th Panzer/Panzer Grenadier Division's Catholic Pastor, Erich Richter, wears the ribbon for the Eastern Front Medal. The picture was taken on 29 Dec 1943 in Shitomir (Ukraine).

1.16.1 - MANUFACTURER 25 – ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT DER GRAVUR-GOLD- UND SILBERSCHMIEDE-INNUNGEN / HANAU

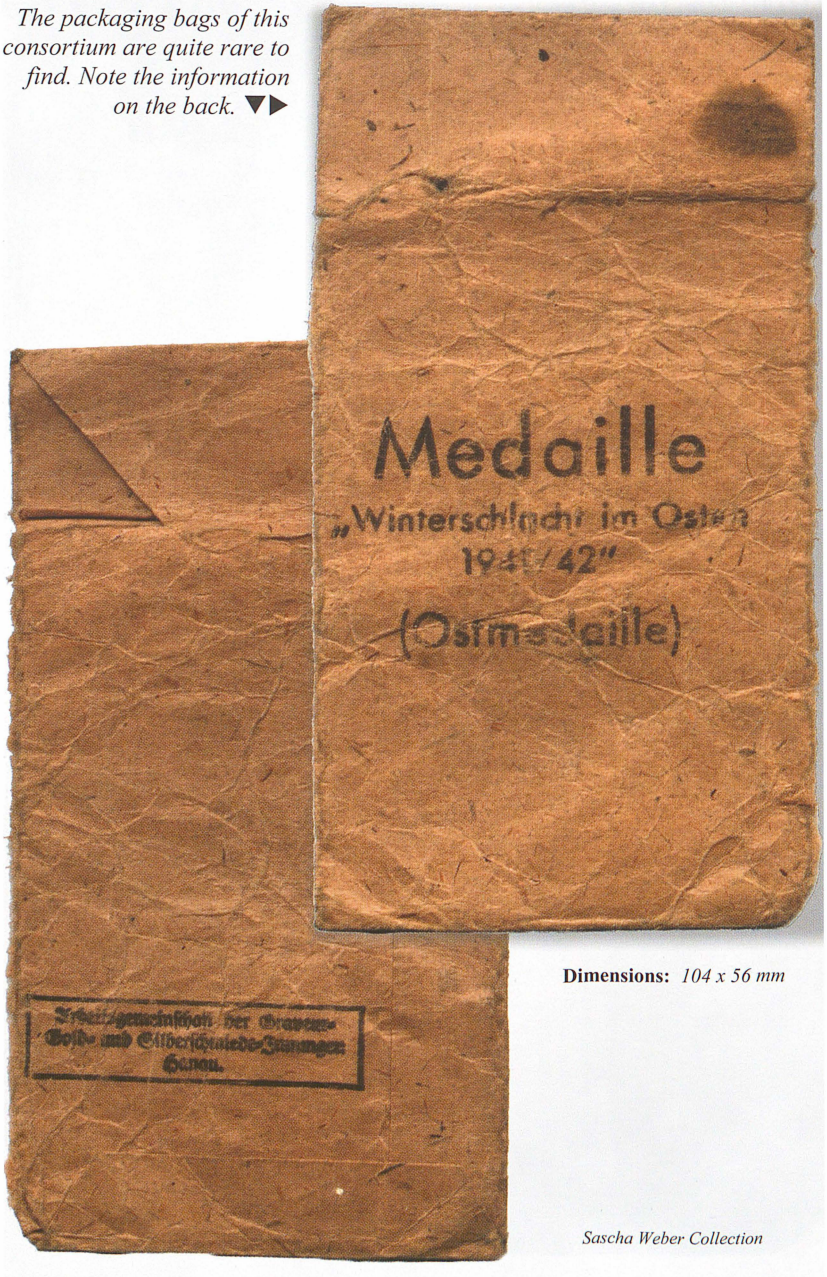
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.25 mm*
Width:	*36.15 mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces of this consortium (included several manufacturers) are identified by a well detailed national eagle. These are rare to find at the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The helmet visor design here extends a very long way. The surface looks rough and grainy. ▼▶

◀▲ *The word "WINTERSCHLACHT" looks distorted and the letters do not line up. The letter "E" of the lettering "IM OSTEN" looks somewhat stunted.*

The packaging bags of this consortium are quite rare to find. Note the information on the back. ▼▶



Dimensions: *104 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

Erfurt / Pf Sondershausen

Ba Erf 2

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

Weichenwärter

Hermann K e r s t e n

AM 30. November 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

Reichsverkehrsdirektion Minsk

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:
Berent (Westpr), den 15. Aug. 1944
Reichsverkehrsdirektion Minsk

▲ *An award certificate for the Weichenwerter (Switchman) Hermann Kersten. Certified by an official of the Reichsbahndirektion (State Railroad Division) Minsk. Certificates like this to members of the Reichsbahn are extremely rare! Also note the late date of issue.*

1.17.1 - Manufacturer 29 – Preussische Staatsmünze (Hauptmünzamt) / Berlin

From the state telepone book 1942:

Preußische Staatsmünze
Unterw. Str. 2
Berlin C 2
Fernruf 16 31 73

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.40 mm*
Width:	*36.30 mm*
Weight:	*17.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The manufacturer shown as number 29 in the LDO lists is "Hauptmünzamt Berlin ". However, this is not the correct name. Pieces of the manufacturer are very rare to find.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The legs of the swastika are very wide and shapeless. The shape of the helmet looks round and does not show the typical German helmet profile. ▼▶

◀▲ *The letter "M" in the words "IM OSTEN" has inwardly tapering side legs. The overall embossing is very high quality.*

The packaging bag of the Preußischen Staatsmünze has an orange-brown color..

Dimensions: *105 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

◀ *The Soldbuch of Stabsgefreiten (Staff Corporal) Karl Müller, a member of a Fusilier Battalion. In addition to the Sudetenland Annexation Medal and the War Merit Cross 2nd Class with Swords, he was also awarded the Eastern Front Medal on 15 Aug 1942. A typical Soldbuch entry. The field mail numbers (Feldpostnummer) were blacked out for security purposes.*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.18.1 - MANUFACTURER 30 – HAUPTMÜNZAMT / WIEN

From the state telephone book 1942:

HAUPTMÜNZAMT
& GOLDSCHEIDEANSTALT
HEUMARKT 1
WIEN III/40
FERNRUF U1 15 03 & U1 15 04

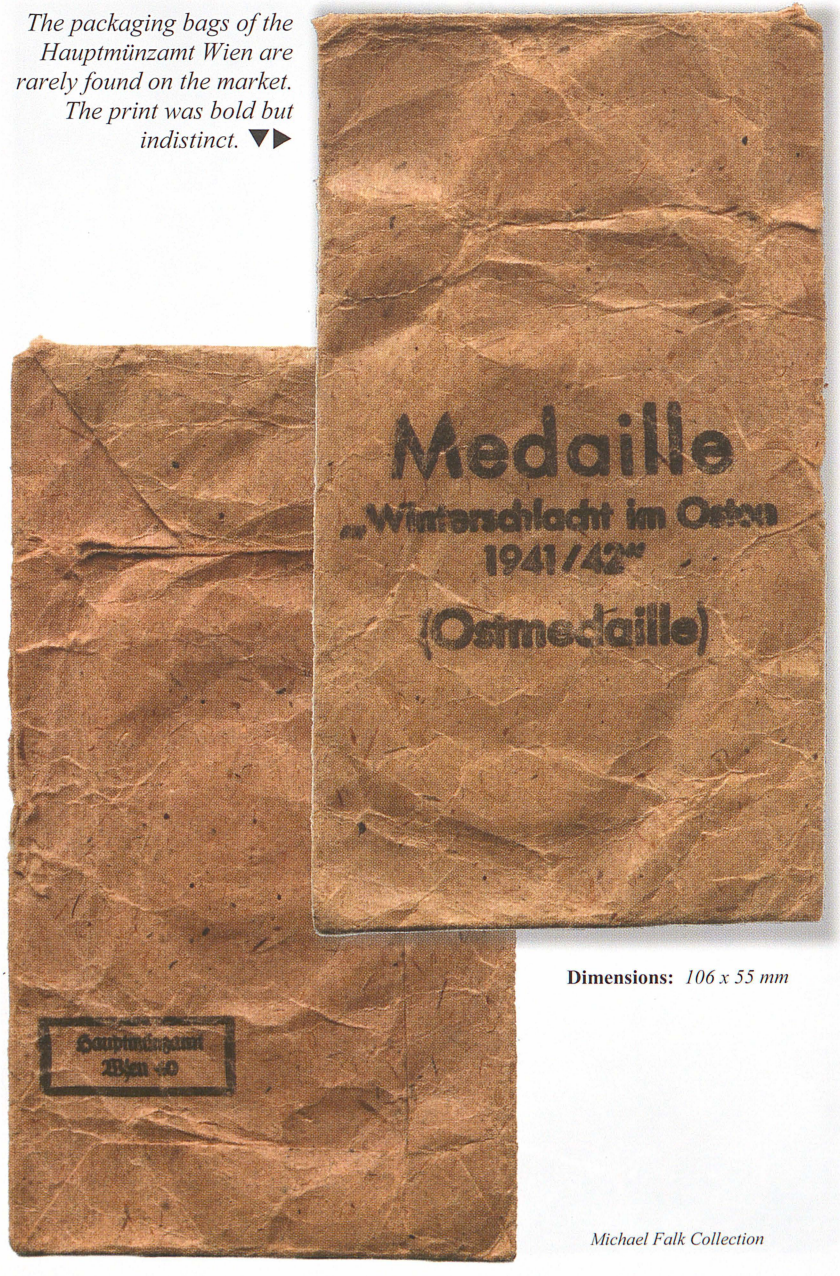
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*45.15 mm*
Width:	*36.40 mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*There is a very small and easily overlooked mark in the ribbon ring. In general, pieces of this manufacturer are common, but marked pieces are very rare..*

Sascha Weber Collection

The piece looks a bit spongy and softly detailed. This is obvious when looking at the claws and the laurel leaves. ▼▶

◀▲ *Note the sharp edge on the back of the helmet. The leaves of the laurel branch are on the back are partly filled, partly cut out - typical "Viennese Design".*

The packaging bags of the Hauptmünzamt Wien are rarely found on the market. The print was bold but indistinct. ▼▶



Dimensions: *106 x 55 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

Bastian Brücker Collection

In Würdigung des heldenhaften Einsatzes
gegen den bolschewistischen Feind
während des Winters 1941/42 stifte ich
die Medaille für die

Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42

OSTMEDAILLE

UNTERHAUPTQUARTIER, DEN 26. MAI 1942
DER FÜHRER

GEZ. ADOLF HITLER

Vorläufige Besitzurkunde

Gefreiter Greve
Stab/110.Inf.Div.

wird hiermit die Ostmedaille in
Anerkennung seines Einsatzes während
der Wintermonate 1941/42 verliehen.

DIV.GEFST.
DEN 9. AUG. 1942.

Gilbert

GENERALLEUTNANT UND DIV.-KOMMANDEUR.

▲ *An interim award certificate for Gefreiter (Private) Greve of the staff of the 110th Infantry Division. Signed by the commander of the 110th Infantry Division, Generalleutnant (Lieutenant General) Martin Gilbert.*

1.19.1 - MANUFACTURER 39 – RUDOLF BERGS / GABLONZ A.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

BERGS, RUDOLF
BIJOUTERIE-FABRIK
WURSTUNGER-GASSE 37A
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 23 34

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.60 mm*
Width:	*36.15 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*This manufacturer used packaging bags of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft „Metall & Kunststoff" Gablonz (AGMuK) (Metal and Plastic Consortium, Gablonz). This piece is very rare on the collectors' market.*

Jochen Kuhns Collection

The outermost claw of the left leg is stunted. The piece is impressive with its very dark burnishing. ▼▶

◀▲ *The numbers and letters have a slight double stamp. One can see this here with the letter "S" and the number "4".*

1.20.1 - MANUFACTURER 55 – J.E. HAMMER & SÖHNE / GERINGSWALDE

From the state telephone book 1942:

J.E. HAMMER & SÖHNE
SCHMUCK-FABRIK
BAHNHOFSTR.
GERINGSWALDE (SACHSEN)
FERNRUF 2

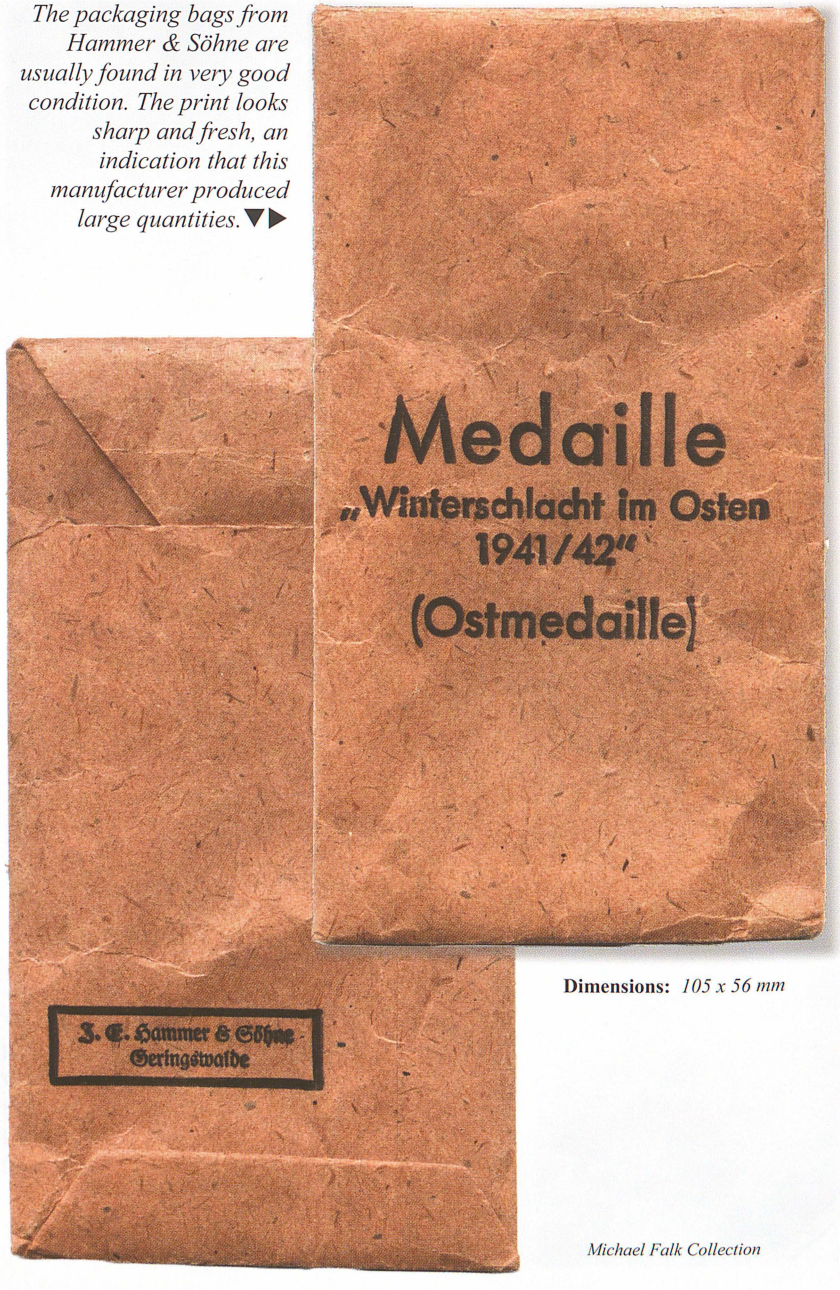
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*43.90 mm*
Width:	*35.80 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Good production with still well-preserved silver plating, but with a slightly grainy surface. Pieces of this manufacturer are common on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

A distinguishing feature for pieces of this manufacturer are the wide-spread and very sharp claws. ▼▶

◀▲ The tip of the back laurel branch looks very undetailed or is "stunted" as shown here.

The packaging bags from Hammer & Söhne are usually found in very good condition. The print looks sharp and fresh, an indication that this manufacturer produced large quantities. ▼▶

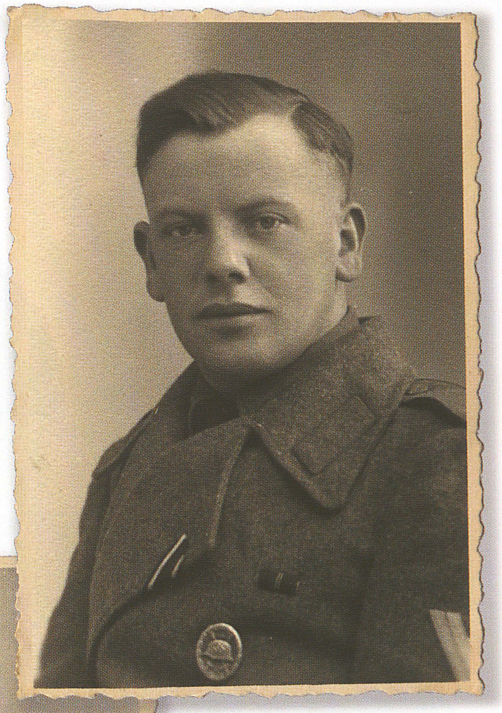


Dimensions: *105 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

An unknown corporal wearing the assault gun wrap tunic with the single ribbon bar for the Eastern Front Medal. ▶

Sascha Weber Collection



◀ *A procession to a field funeral near Kharkov. Even the excavation of a grave for fallen comrades was a show of strength due to the hard, frozen ground.*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.21.1 - MANUFACTURER 58 – ARTHUR JÄCKEL / GABLONZ

From the state phonebook 1942:

JÄCKEL, ARTHUR
BIJOUTERIEWAREN
AM ALTEN TEICH 19
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 34 75

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.65 mm*
Width:	*35.80 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Very good and detailed production. Pieces from this manufacturer are very rare to find on the collectors' market.*

Private Collection

The design corresponds to the pieces of other manufacturers from Gablonz. There may be a connection to Arbeitsgemeinschaft Metall und Kunststoff. ▼▶

◀▲ *Note that the sword here looks a bit coarse and very undetailed.*

1.22.1 - MANUFACTURER 60 – KATZ & DEYLE / PFORZHEIM

From the state telephone book 1942:

KATZ & DEYLE
BIJOUTERIE-FABRIK
LUISENPLATZ 4
PFORZHEIM
FERNRUF 64 22

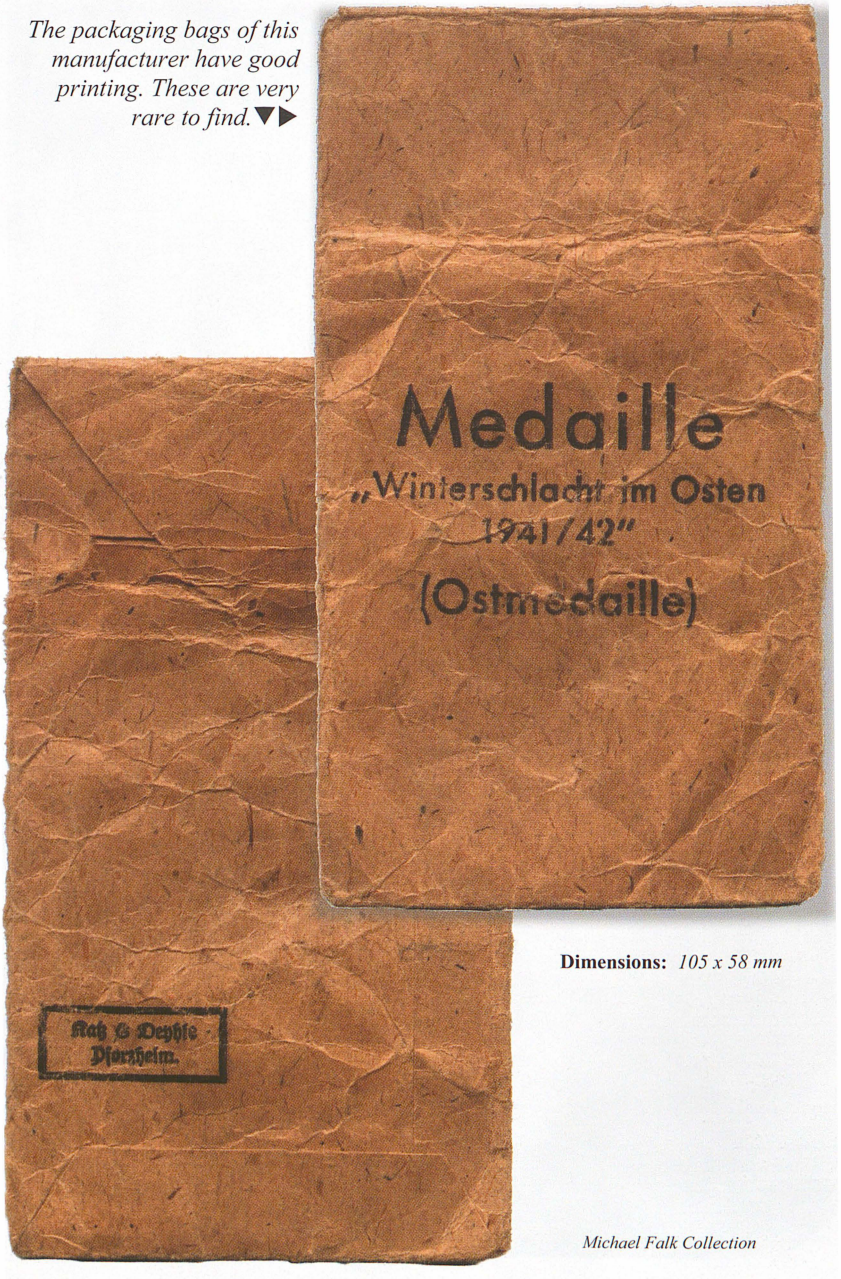
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.55 mm*
Width:	*36.35 mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*High-quality workmanship and good detailing characterize this medal. Pieces from this manufacturer are rarely found on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Notice the tear-shaped leaf on the front of the laurel branch. ▼▶

◀▲ The letter "L" in the word "WINTERSCHLACHT" is only slightly recognizable.

The packaging bags of this manufacturer have good printing. These are very rare to find. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 58 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

This rare photograph shows Lieutenant Otto Priem with the ribbon for the Eastern Front Medal on his field jacket. Otto Priem was awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on 16.04.1943, when he and a few grenadiers held a key position during the battle of the Demjansk Pocket. He personally destroyed three enemy tanks in close combat.

1.23.1 - MANUFACTURER 61 – RUDOLF A. KARNETH & SÖHNE / GABLONZ A.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

KARNETH, RUDOLF A.
GÜRTLEREI
GUTENB. STR. 19
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 22 85

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.65 mm*
Width:	*35.90 mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*This piece looks to be in nearly unworn and barely aged condition, partially due to high quality workmanship. These pieces are very rare to find on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

A distinguishing feature for pieces from this manufacturer are the widely spread claws of the national eagle's left leg. Other manufacturers from Gablonz also used this design. ▼▶

◀▲ *Note the very highly detailed laurel branch and the recognizable laurel berry at the center of the sword.*

1.24.1 - MANUFACTURER 63 – FRANZ KLAMT & SÖHNE / GABLONZ A.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

FRANZ KLAMT & SÖHNE
METALLWARENFABRIK
ADLERGASSE 25
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 25 12

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.75 mm*
Width:	*36.20 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*This piece is very impressive, with a good embossing quality. Unlike some other manufacturers, the plumage shows ridges in the feathers. These medals are very rare on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The head of the national eagle looks striking. The feathers of the wings show detailed ridges. A feature that is not often found with other manufacturers. ▼▶

◀▲ The letter "S" in the word "WINTERSCHLACHT" has a distinctive shape.

1.25.1 - MANUFACTURER 65 – KLEIN & QUENZER / IDAR OBERSTEIN

From the state telephone book 1942:

KLEIN & QUENZER AG
SCHMUCKWAREN &
REIßVERSCHLÜSSE
NAHE-STR. 13/17
IDAR-OBERSTEIN
FERNRUF 23 45

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.00 mm*
Width:	*35.95 mm*
Weight:	*18.50 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Ribbon rings made of non-ferrous metal can be found. Even when in top condition, many pieces usually have a bubbly surface. These are very common on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The burnishing looks quite neat and has a gray-blue hue. Despite very good condition, the piece has a bubbly surface. Again, the feathers have ridges. ▼▶

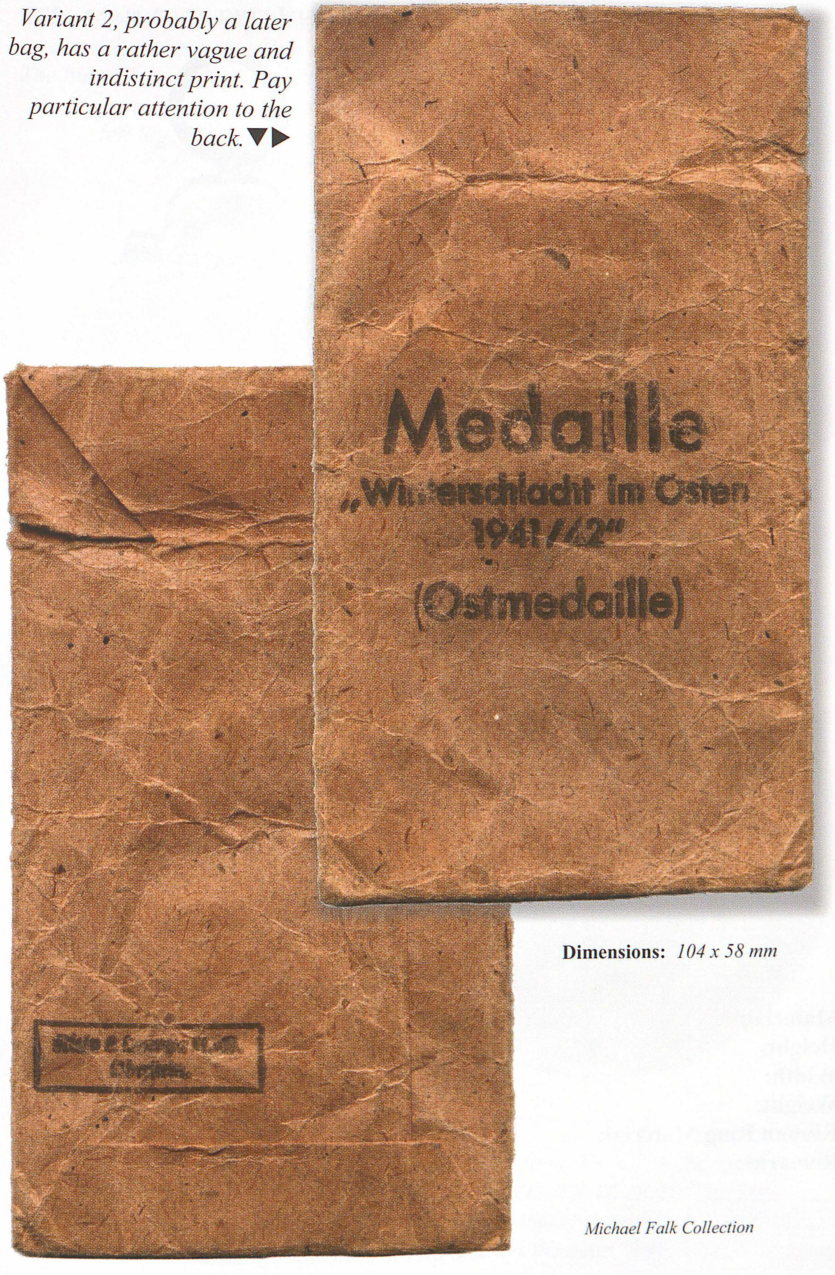
◀▲ *The number "1" of the year "1941" is somewhat weakly struck. Detailing and embossing are good.*

There are two known variants of packaging bags from this manufacturer. Variation 1 has a good and clear print. ▼▶

Dimensions: *103 x 57 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

Variant 2, probably a later bag, has a rather vague and indistinct print. Pay particular attention to the back. ▼▶



Dimensions: *104 x 58 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

1.26.1 - MANUFACTURER 71 – RUDOLF LEUKERT / GABLONZ A.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

LEUKERT, RUDOLF
METALLWARENFABRIK
SCHÜTZENGASSE 7
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 25 60

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.80 mm*
Width:	*36.00 mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*This manufacturer used packaging bags of Arbeitsgemeinschaft „Metall & Kunststoff" Gablonz (AGMuK). These pieces are rarely found on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Pieces from this manufacturer have a very good construction quality. The burnishing is high quality. Note the diagonally spread claws on the left leg. The laurels are well detailed. ▼▶

◀▲ *Note the "C" in the word "WINTERSCHLACHT" and the moderately recognizable number "1" in the year "1941".*

1.27.1 - Manufacturer 73 – Franz Mänert / Gablonz a.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

Mänert, Franz
Stahlwaren
Wiener-Str. 67
Gablonz
Fernruf 20 77

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.45 mm*
Width:	*36.15 mm*
Weight:	*22.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*This manufacturer used packaging bags of Arbeitsgemeinschaft „Metall & Kunststoff" Gablonz (AGMuK). These pieces are extremely rare on the collectors' market..*

Björn Spitzlei Collection

Pieces from this manufacturer are extremely sharp and clear. The eye of the eagle was especially well executed. ▼▶

◀▲ Also, the logos are very well executed. Note the striking "S" in the lettering "IM OSTEN".

Franz Mänert – Company History:

Franz Mänert was born in 1866 as the son of a metal worker and contract press operator in Gablonz. Early on, he learned his father's craft and took over the management of his father's business at a young age. Success came quickly which allowed the firm to hire assistants. In order to solve the need for additional space, Mänert bought a house on Wiener Straße in Gablonz at the age of only 20, not just to enlarge the company, but to provide additional living space as well. Acquisition of machinery followed.
The result of these endeavors was the addition of another line of business - the production of embossing work. Among other things, he made medals for the Handel- und Gewerbekammer (Chamber of Commerce and Industry) in Reichenberg. The best-known medal - and at the same time one of the last from the house of Franz Mänert's - was the "Bruno Brehm Medal" from 1942.

With the outbreak of the First World War, Franz Mänert received orders from the Ministry of Armaments - Steel Casings, for the production of grenade sleeves. The entire manufacturing process had to be changed, and the firm was now required to work day and night to meet the armaments orders.

After World War I, the company switched back to the old production, which was successfully continued.
In the course of World War II, production was again switched to armaments. Grenade sleeves were once again produced, as well as awards for the military.

Franz Mänert was still active at an old age and was ousted in May 1945. However, he was able to stay with his three sons as an employee in his former company. He died at the age of 80 in February 1946.

◀ *The "Bruno Brehm Medal" was a masterpiece of German embossing and was made only by Franz Mänert. The medal was made of heavy zinc plate and provided with a fine oxide tint. The medal was designed by the Viennese medalist Arnold Hartig. Bruno Brehm was a German poet and writer. On the occasion of his 50th birthday in 1942, the medal was issued by the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia.*

An award certificat and accompanying letter for the Eastern Front Medal to the Wehrpflichtigen (Conscript) Albert Bunnemann. Shipped by the Wehrmeldeamt (Recruiting Station) in Brake on 24 Aug1943. Whether the awardee was still alive at this time or if it is a posthumous award cannot be determined. Presumably, this could only have been forwarded to him. ▶

Wehrmeldeamt Brake i.O. Brake, den 24.8.43

An den
Wehrpfl. Albert B u n n e m a n n
G o l z w a r d e n
über Brake.

Das Wehrmeldeamt Brake überreicht Ihnen anliegend die Ihnen verliehene Ostmedaille nebst Besitzzeugnis.

1 Ostmedaille
1 Besitzzeugnis.

Major und Leiter

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

Obergefreiten Albert Bunnemann, geb. 4.1.1906

AM 19. August 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

Wehrbezirkskommando Oldenburg (Oldb.)

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:

Fregattenkapitän

◀ *The award certificate for Obergefreiten Albert Bunnemann dated 19 August 1942. This was certified by a Fregattenkapitän (Navy Commander).*

Mathias Helmke Collection

1.28.1 - MANUFACTURER 74 – CARL MAURER & SOHN / OBERSTEIN

From the state telephone book 1942:

CARL MAURER & SOHN
UHRENKETTENFABRIK
WALDWEG
IDAR-OBERSTEIN
FERNRUF 20 26

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.20 mm*
Width:	*35.70 mm*
Weight:	*21.70 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Buntmetal*
Remarks:	*Pieces from this manufacturer are extremely rare on the collectors market..*

Private Collection

The national eagle has a very pronounced character. ▼▶

◀▲ The letters "O" and "S" almost seem to touch each other. The numbers "4" and "1" are very far apart.

1.29.1 - MANUFACTURER 75 – UNKNOWN MANUFACTURER

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.53 mm*
Width:	*35.94 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces from this manufacturer show a rather weak character. These are very rare on the collectors' market.*

Private Collection

The embossing looks a bit weak. The design is identical to other pieces from manufacturers in Gablonz.
▼▶

◀▲ *The sword is very wide and looks a bit rough.*

1.30.1 - Manufacturer 76 – Ernst L. Müller / Pforzheim

From the state telephone book 1942:

Müller Ernst L.
Abzeichenfabrikation
Untere Rodstr. 9
P. Karlsruhe 9075
Fernruf 79 45

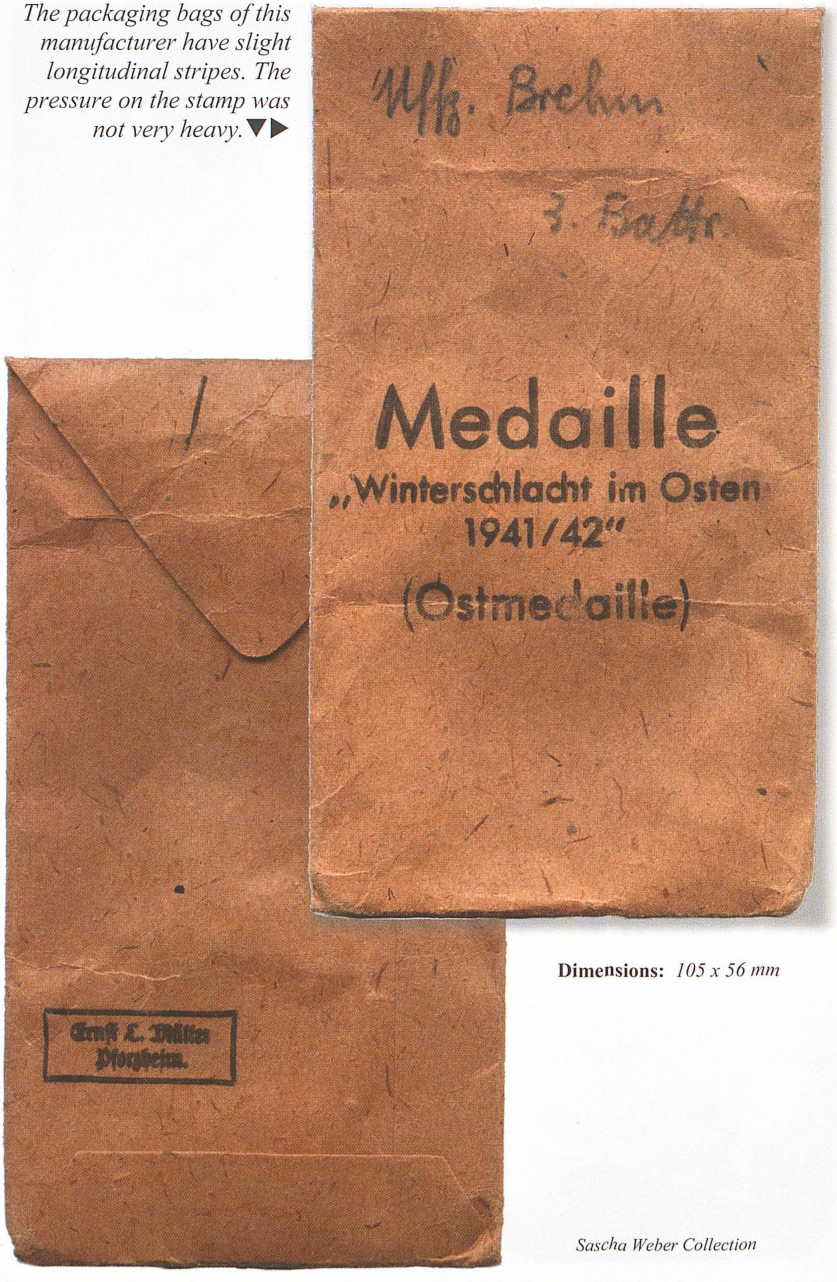
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.40 mm*
Width:	*36.25 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces of this manufacturer usually have a faulty or moderately executed reverse. These are not common on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The surface of the medal usually has raised grainy areas. Note the different sizes of the claws. ▼▶

◀▲ The back does not show high quality production. Some areas are poorly pronounced, or parts of them are crooked.

The packaging bags of this manufacturer have slight longitudinal stripes. The pressure on the stamp was not very heavy. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

An unknown colonel. Note the three buttonhole straps, one of them for the East Medal.

1.31.1 - MANUFACTURER 77 – BAYRISCHES HAUPTMÜNZAMT / MÜNCHEN

From the state telephone book 1942:

BAYRISCHES HAUPTMÜNZAMT
HOFGRABEN 4
MÜNCHEN
FERNRUF 2 16 57

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.40 mm*
Width:	*36.00 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces from this manufacturer are rare on the collectors market..*

Andi Rasenkenz Collection

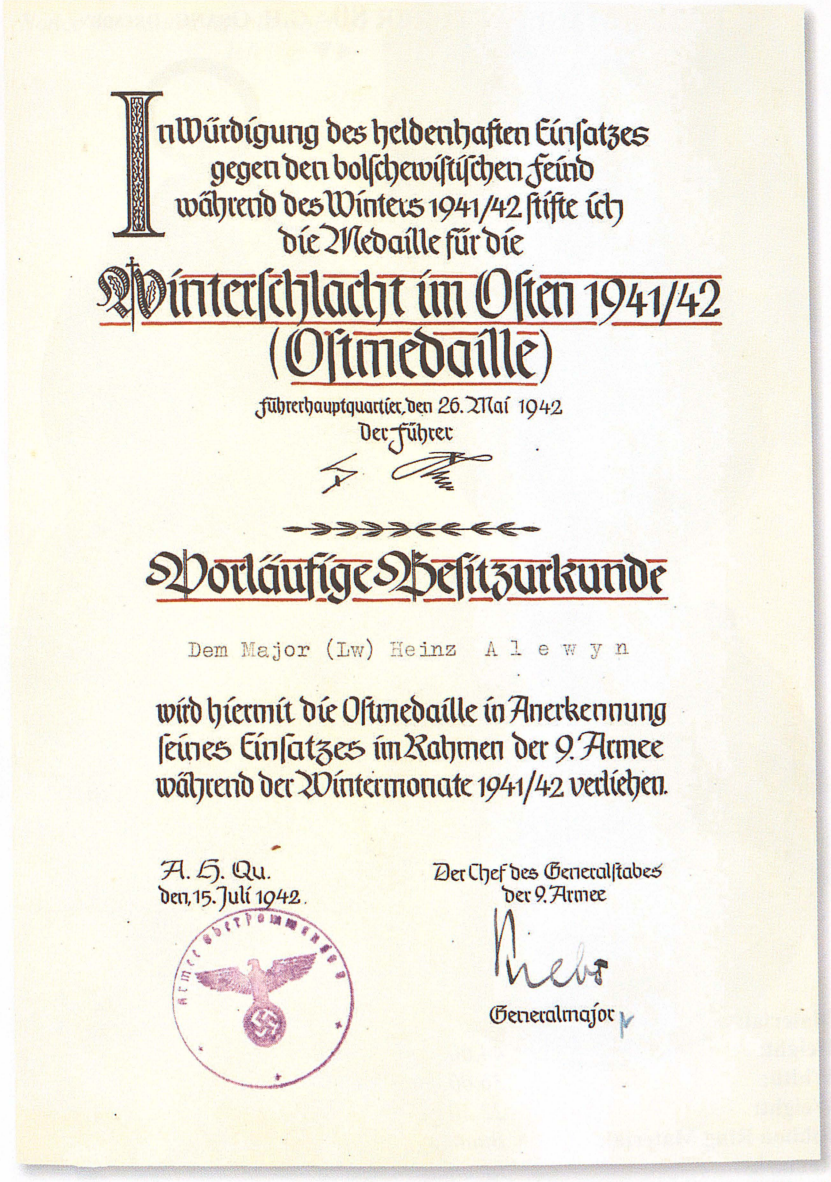
The national eagle is very detailed and expressive. Pay particular attention to the eagle's head. ▼▶

◀▲ The number "2" is particularly far from the number "4".

The packaging bags of this manufacturer were made of light brown paper. The manufacturer's mark can be found stamped on the flap on the reverse side. ▼▶

Measurements: *105 x 56 mm*

Andi Rasenkens Collection



In Würdigung des heldenhaften Einsatzes
gegen den bolschewistischen Feind
während des Winters 1941/42 stifte ich
die Medaille für die

Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42
(Ostmedaille)

Führerhauptquartier, den 26. Mai 1942
Der Führer

Vorläufige Besitzurkunde

Dem Major (Lw) Heinz A l e w y n

wird hiermit die Ostmedaille in Anerkennung
seines Einsatzes im Rahmen der 9. Armee
während der Wintermonate 1941/42 verliehen.

A. H. Qu.
den 15. Juli 1942.

Der Chef des Generalstabes
der 9. Armee

Generalmajor

▲ *A very rare preliminary award certificate for Major Heinz Alewyn. Signed by the Chief of the General Staff of the 9th Army, Generalmajor (Major General) Hans Krebs (Knight's Cross 23 Mar 1944).*

1.32.1 - Manufacturer 80 – G.H. Osang / Dresden

From the state telephone book 1942:

Osang, G.H.
Militäreffekten,
Bronzewaren &
Metallknopffabrik
Neue Gasse 30
Dresden
Fernruf 1 31 48

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.00 mm*
Width:	*36.00 mm*
Weight:	*22.20 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Buntmetal*
Remarks:	*Identical in design to the the manufacturer "88" - Werner Redo. Produced with high quality. Pieces from this manufacturer are extremely rare on the collectors' market.*

Matthias Flach Collection

Notice the stunted left claw of the left leg. ▼▶

◀▲ *The upper part of the laurel branch has undetailed, indistinct leaves above the sword.*

1.33.1 – Manufacturer 85 – Julius Pietsch / Gablonz

From the state telephone book 1942:

PIETSCH, JULIUS
METALLWARENFABRIK
GUTENB.-STR. 21
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 22 29

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.65 mm*
Width:	*35.95 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The piece shown has excellent workmanship and is in good condition. It is rarely found on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

Pieces from this manufacturer show very good workmanship and good condition. An identifying feature is the distinctive left claw on the left leg. ▼▶

◀▲ *Note the clear, very well-defined lettering and the distinctive laurel branch, which only has two berries in this design.*

1.34.1 - MANUFACTURER 88 – WERNER REDO / SAARLAUTERN

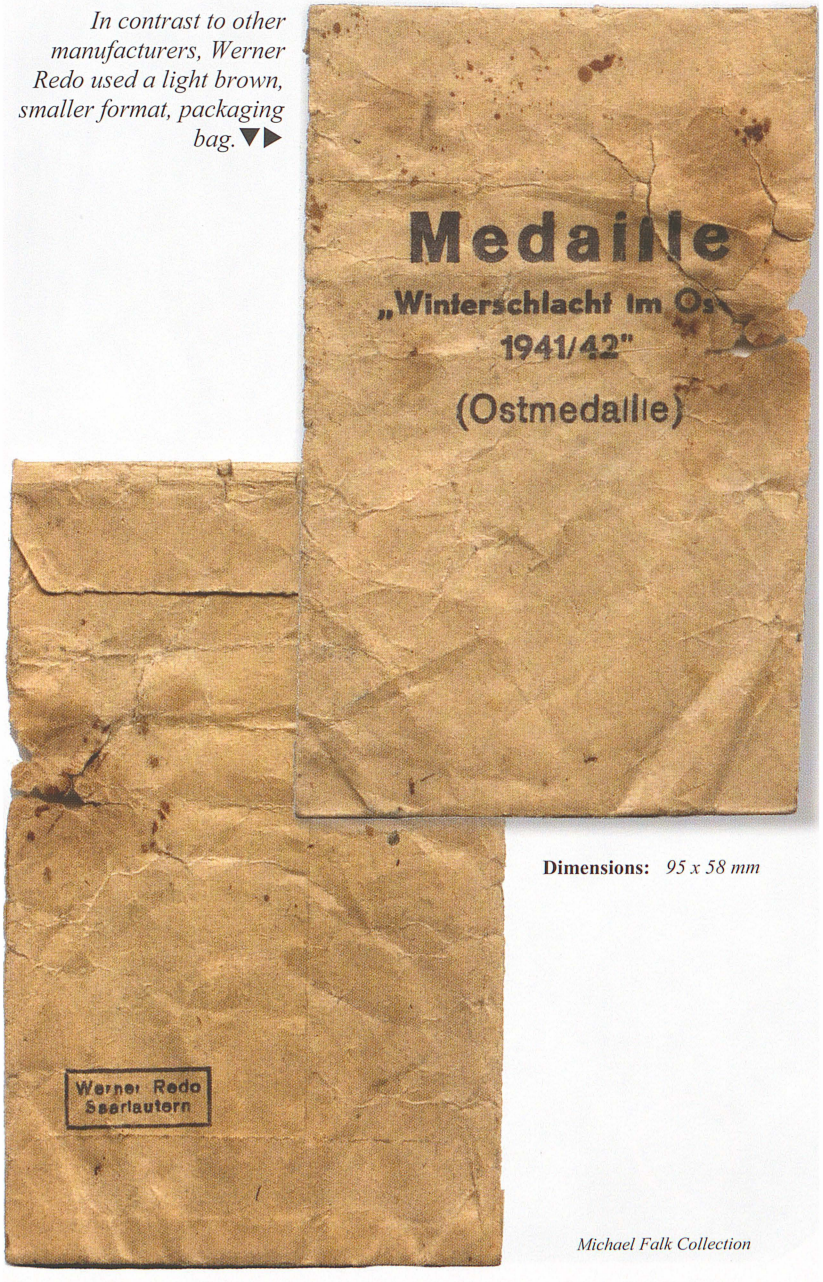
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.00 mm*
Width:	*36.10 mm*
Weight:	*22.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Identical design to those made by manufacturer "80" - G.H. Osang. Pieces from this manufacturer were produced in good quality and still have a very good condition today. These are rare on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Note the slightly stunted left claw of the eagle. Ridges or lines in the feathers of the wings are completely absent. ▼▶

◀▲ *The laurel branch on the back is interrupted above the sword in several places.*

In contrast to other manufacturers, Werner Redo used a light brown, smaller format, packaging bag. ▼▶



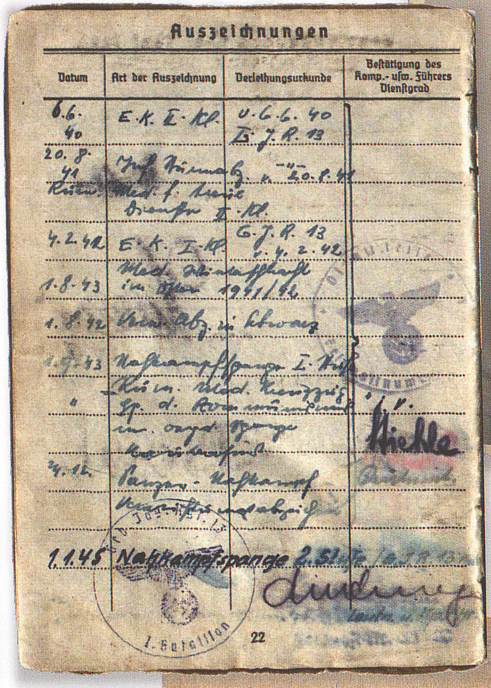
Dimensions: *95 x 58 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

Part of the estate of Alfred Maier. He received the Eastern Front Medal as an Oberjäger (Sergeant) in Mountaineer Regiment 13.▼▶

As a Feldwebel, Alfred Maier won the German Cross in Gold on 20 Jan 1945.

Dirk Schneider Collection



Auszeichnungen

Datum	Art der Auszeichnung	Verleihungsurkunde	Bestätigung des Komp.- usw. Führers Dienstgrad
6.6.40	E.K. II. Kl.	v. 6.6.40 Is. J.R. 13	
20.8.41	Inf. Sturmabz.	v. 20.8.41	
Kum.	Med. f. treue Dienste II. Kl.		
4.2.42	E.K. I. Kl.	G.J.R. 13 v. 4.2.42	
1.8.43	Med. Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42		
1.8.42	Verw. Abz. in Schwarz		
1.9.43	Nahkampfspange I. Stufe		
"	Kum. Med. Kreuzzug Sp. d. Rom. Wunderbuch im Oxyd. Spange		
4.12.	Panzer-Nahkampf		
1.1.45	Nahkampfspange 2. St.		

Stiehle

22

Oberjäger Alfred Maier

(Dienstgrad, Vor- und Zuname)

1./Gebirgsjäger - Regiment 13,

wurde am 1. August 1942 die Medaille

" Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42 "

(Ostmedaille)

verliehen.

Oberleutnant u. Komp.-Chef

1.35.1 - MANUFACTURER 92 – JOSEF RÜCKER & SOHN / GABLONZ A.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

JOS. RÜCKER & SOHN
FISCHERGASSE 9
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 31 00

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.60 mm*
Width:	*35.80 mm*
Weight:	*22.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*High quality piece with very dark burnishing. Pieces from this manufacturer are rarely found on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Also note here the pronounced ridges in the plumage of the right wing. ▼▶

◀▲ *The number "2" of the year "42" stands far away from the number "4".*

1.36.1 - MANUFACTURER 93 – RICHARD SIMM & SÖHNE / GABLONZ A.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

RICHARD SIMM & SÖHNE
SCHMUCK- UND METALL-
WARENBFABRIK
BARTELBERGASSE 3
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 33 69

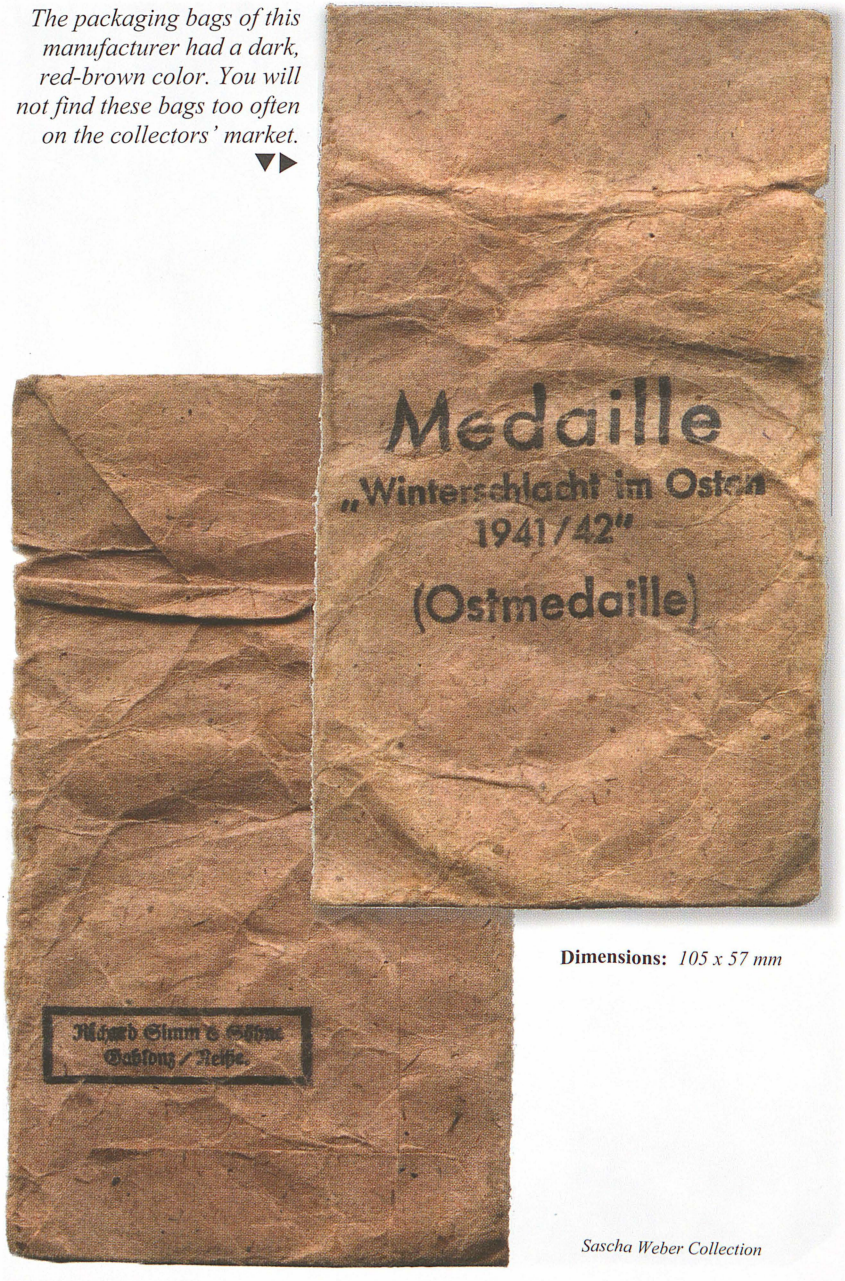
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.10 mm*
Width:	*36.00 mm*
Weight:	*17.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Identical in design to manufacturer 92. Pieces from this manufacturer are common on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The helmet falls off the neck very steeply. The design corresponds to the pieces of manufacturer 92.▼▶

◀▲ The letter "T" in the word "WINTERSCHLACHT" looks very small and stunted.

The packaging bags of this manufacturer had a dark, red-brown color. You will not find these bags too often on the collectors' market.



Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

A rare provisional award certificate to NSKK Scharfuhrer(SS Staff Sergeant) Walter Deitermann of the NSKK-Heavy-Transport-Brigade (Army). He participated as a "TR" war volunteer during "Action TR" from 5 Mar – 1 Apr 1941. "TR" stood for "transport". The aim was to provide transport capacity throughout the economy. The NSKK, Organization Todt, Organization Speer, Army and Air Force all participated. ▶

Vorläufiges Besitzzeugnis.

Gemäß Verordnung des Führers und Obersten Befehlshabers der Wehrmacht über die Stiftung der Medaille "Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42" vom 26.Mai 1942 verleihe ich dem

TR - Kriegsfreiwilligen

Scharführer Walter D e i t e r m a n n ,

NSKK.Kw.Trsp.-Brigade (Heer)

in Würdigung seines Einsatzes im Kampf gegen den bolschewistischen Feind die

O s t m e d a i l l e .

Eberswalde, am 30.Oktober 1942.

Oberst u. Kommandeur

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

TR-Scharführer Walter D e i t e r m a n n

geb.14.4.1923

AM 30.Oktober 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:

M a j o r

◀ *Here is the regular award certificate for NSKK-Scharführer Walter Deitermann. Both documents were issued by the Wehrbezirk (Military District) Command in Eberswalde.*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.37.1 - MANUFACTURER 100 – RUDOLF WÄCHTLER & LANGE / MITTWEIDA

From the state telephone book 1942:

WÄCHTLER & LANGE
MITTWEIDAER
METALLWARENFABRIK
MITTWEIDA
FERNRUF 27 67

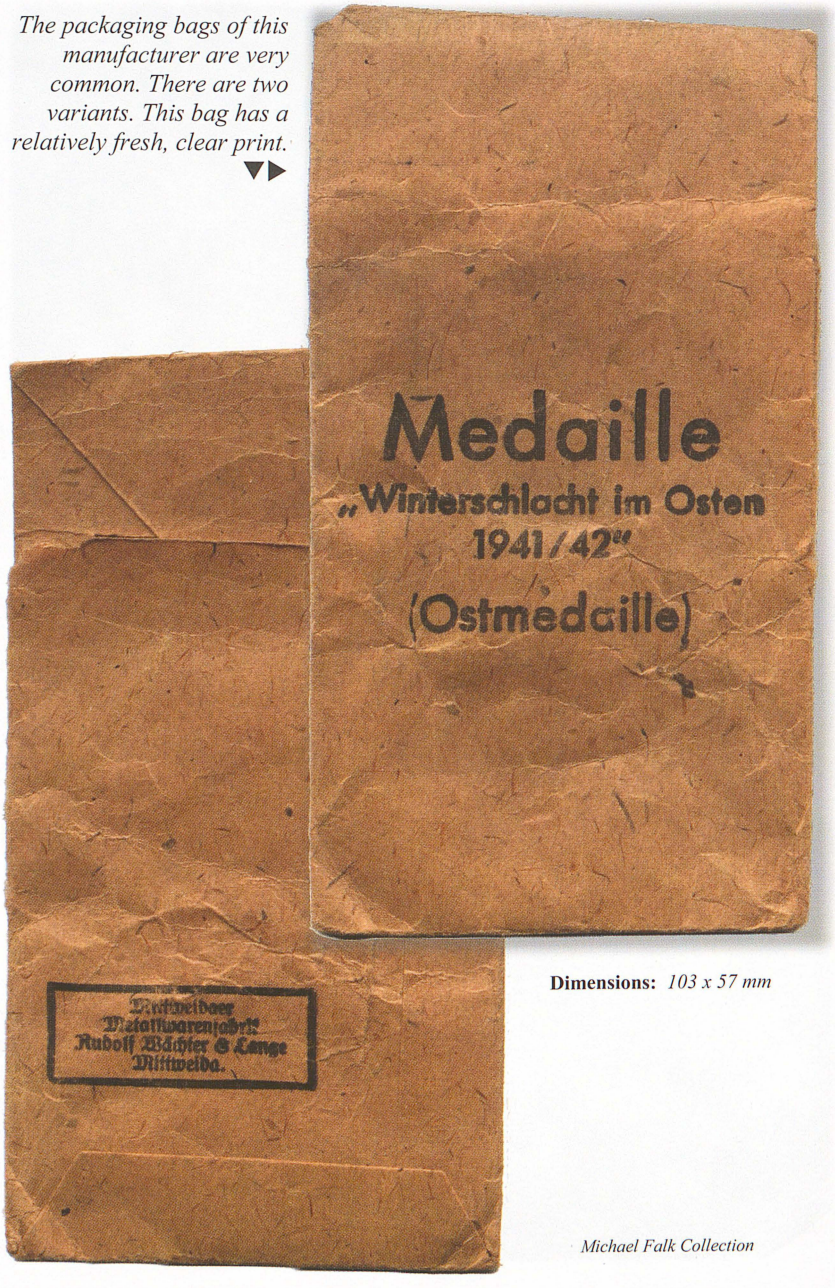
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*42.90 mm*
Width:	*35.90 mm*
Weight:	*20.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces from this manufacturer often exhibit a blistered surface even when in good condition. These are very common in the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Note the widely spread claws on the left leg. ▼▶

◀▲ *The letter "M" in the lettering "IM OSTEN" is rather weak. The entire surface of the front and back is covered with bubbles.*

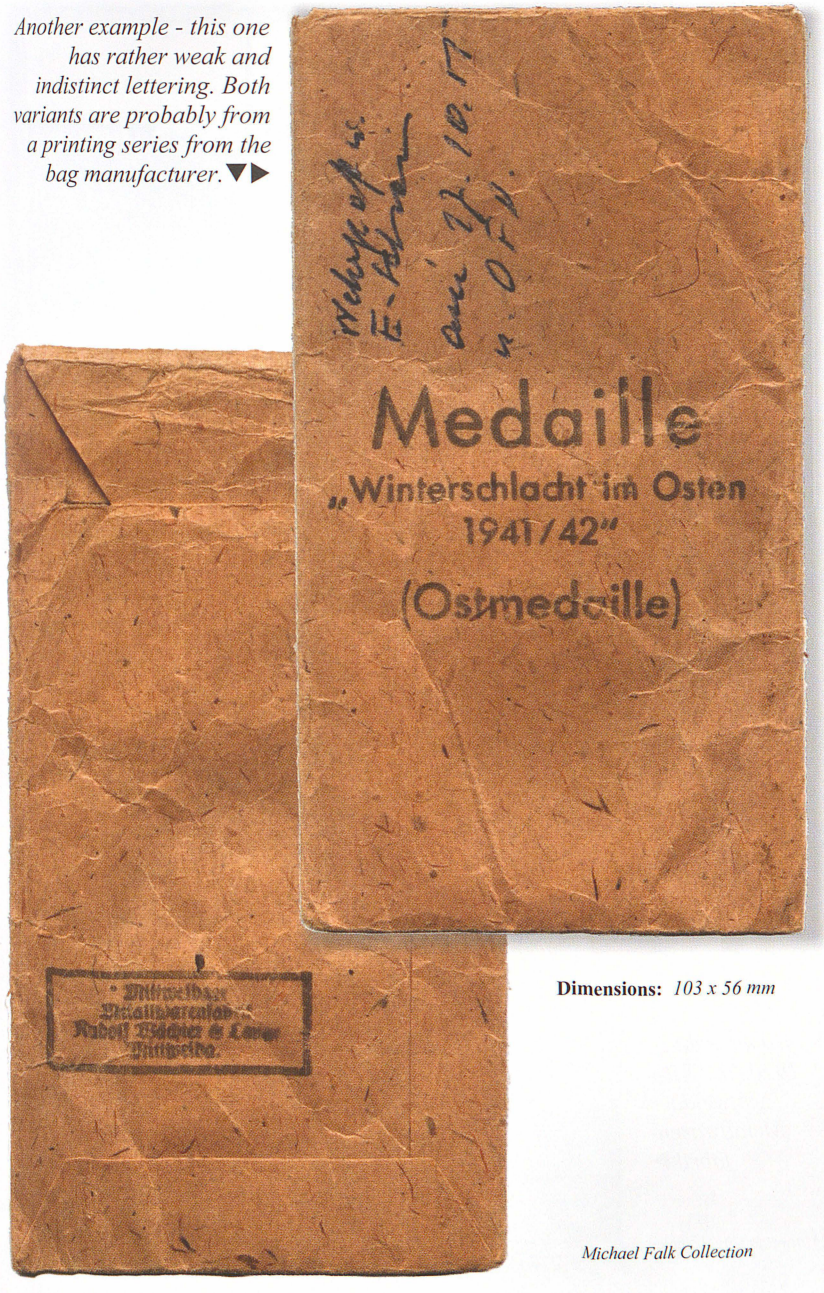
The packaging bags of this manufacturer are very common. There are two variants. This bag has a relatively fresh, clear print.



Dimensions: *103 x 57 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

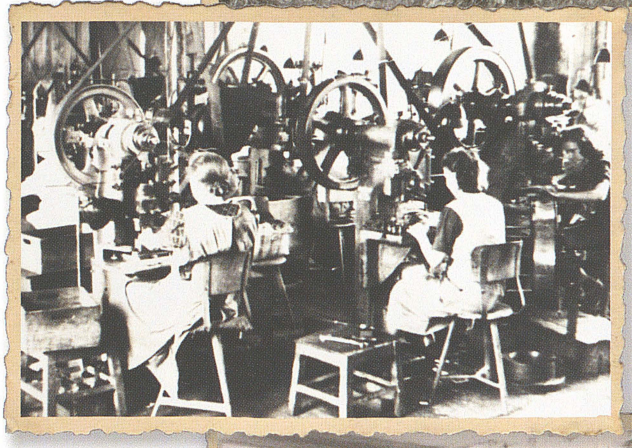
Another example - this one has rather weak and indistinct lettering. Both variants are probably from a printing series from the bag manufacturer. ▼▶



Dimensions: *103 x 56 mm*

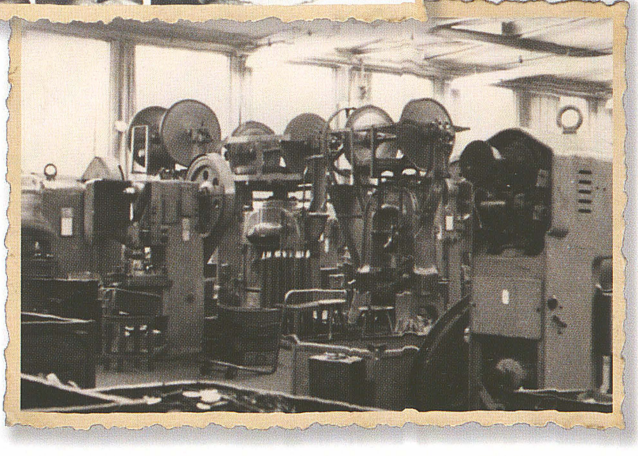
Michael Falk Collection

The production halls and the factory premises of the "Mittweidaer Metallwarenfabrik Rudolf Wächtler & Lange" in the 1930s.▶



◀ Female workers on the spindle presses at the "Mittweidaer Metallwaren-fabrik". The picture was probably taken at the end of 1944.

View into the production halls with the big spindle presses. A shot from the early 1950s as "VEB Mittweidaer Metallwaren-fabrik▶



Mittweida City Archives

Vorläufiges Besitzzeugnis

Feldgend. Abt. 561 (mot.)

O. U., den 10. August 1942

Im Namen des Führers und Obersten Befehlshabers der Wehrmacht

verleihe ich

auf Grund der Verordnung über die Stiftung der Medaille „Winterschlacht im Osten 1941-42" (Ostmedaille) vom 26. 5. 1942 (AHM. 42, Ziffer 507, Durchf.-Best. 2) als Anerkennung für Bewährung im Kampfe gegen den bolschewistischen Feind während des russischen Winters 1941-42 die Medaille

„Winterschlacht im Osten 1941-42"
(Ostmedaille)

an den

Ofw. d. Feldgend.

August Forbach

Feldgend. Abt. 561

Hauptmann u. Abt.-Führer

▲ *A provisional award certificate in A4 format for Oberfeldwebel August Forbach of the Feldgendarmerie-Abteilung (Military Police Detachment) 561. Certified by the acting detachment commander.*

1.38.1 - MANUFACTURER 107 – CARL WILD / HAMBURG

From the state telephone book 1942:

WILD, CARL
ABZEICHENFABRIK
ELISENSTR. 13
HAMBURG
FERNRUF 25 33 97

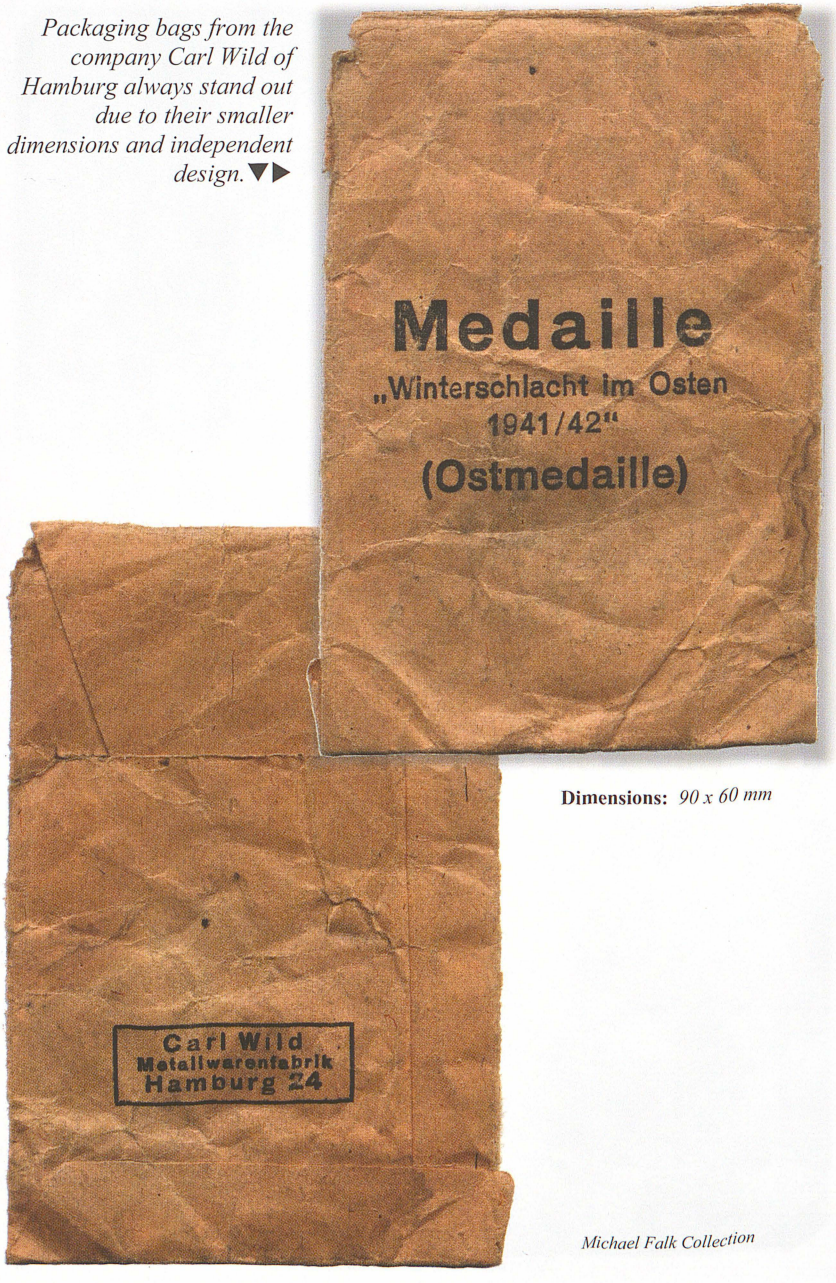
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.20 mm*
Width:	*36.00 mm*
Weight:	*17.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Very light, thin piece. Many of these pieces have an extremely blistered surface. Pieces from this manufacturer can be found quite frequently on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Despite the very blistered surface one recognizes the very wide and thick claws on the left leg. ▼▶

◀▲ *The letters "M", "S" and "N" of the lettering "IM OSTEN" appear very curved and show serifs.*

Packaging bags from the company Carl Wild of Hamburg always stand out due to their smaller dimensions and independent design. ▼▶



Dimensions: *90 x 60 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

Since it was thought that the Soviet Union would be defeated by winter, fielding appropriate winter clothing was neglected. The soldiers helped themselves and improvised. ▶

◀ *It was especially important to have warm clothing for soldiers pulling guard duty on icy nights. These are coats of made of sheepskin.*

Due to the improvisation to protect against the cold, the troops did not have a consistent appearance. Whether gloves, hats or coats, everything was made by hand. ▶

Sascha Weber Collection

1.39.1 - MANUFACTURER 108 – ARNO WALLPACH / SALZBURG

From the state telephone book 1942:

ARNO V. WALLPACH
METALL- UND
KUNSTGEWERBL. WERKSTÄTTEN
STETHAIMERSTR. 13
SALZBURG
FERNRUF 291 31

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.45 mm*
Width:	*36.05 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Striking helmet shape. Pieces from this manufacturer are uncommon on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

Note the large protruding berry on the lower part of the laurel branch. The ventilation hole on the helmet has a larger diameter than other manufacturers' pieces. ▼▶

◀▲ *Note the distinctive shape of the helmet. The number "4" of the year "1941" is larger compared to the other numbers.*

The orange-brown packaging bags from Wallpach are rare. ▼▶

Dimensions: *106 x 56 mm*

Jochen Kuhns Collection

An unknown Oberfeldwebel at his wedding. He wears the Eastern Front Medal on his medal bar immediately after the Iron Cross 2nd Class 1939. ▶

Markus Reindl Collection

◀ *A press photo (PK-Hoffmann) of Hauptmann Rudolf Henne. He wears the ribbon for the Eastern Front Medal on the small ribbon bar over his left breast pocket. Hauptmann Henne received the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross on 12 Apr 1942 as squadron commander of the 9th Squadron, Kampfgeschwader (Bomber) 51.*

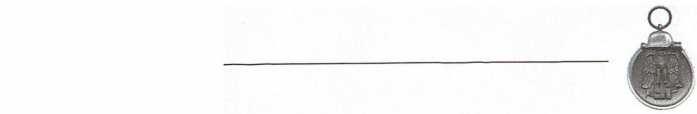
Sascha Weber Collection

1.40.1 - MANUFACTURER 110 – OTTO ZAPPE / GABLONZ A.N.

From the state telephone book 1942:

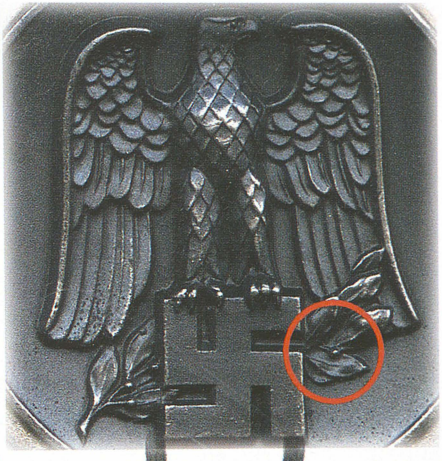
OTTO ZAPPE
SEIDENSCHWANZ 164
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 72 24

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.95 mm*
Width:	*35.95 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*High quality, heavy medal. Pieces from this manufacturer are common.*



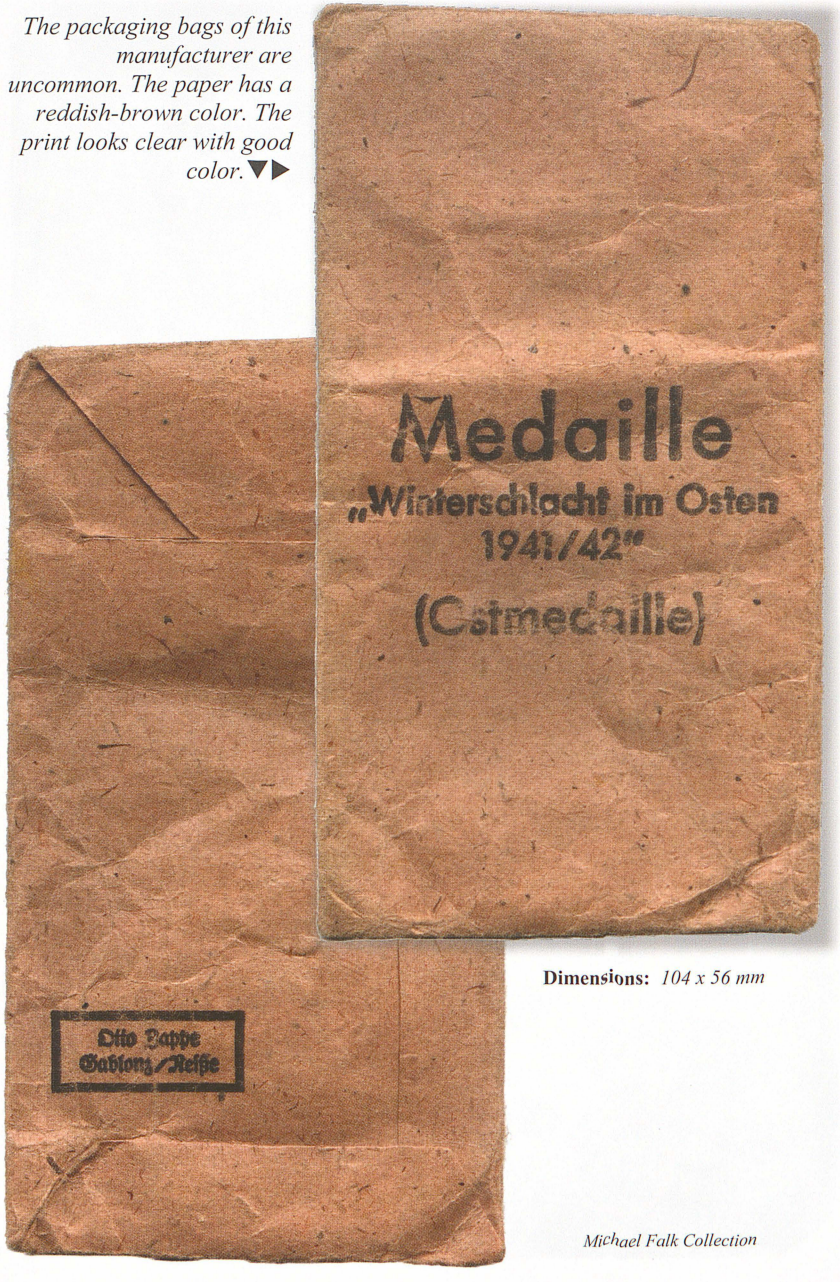
Michael Falk Collection

The piece has a very high quality embossing. Note the single berry on the laurel branch ▼▶



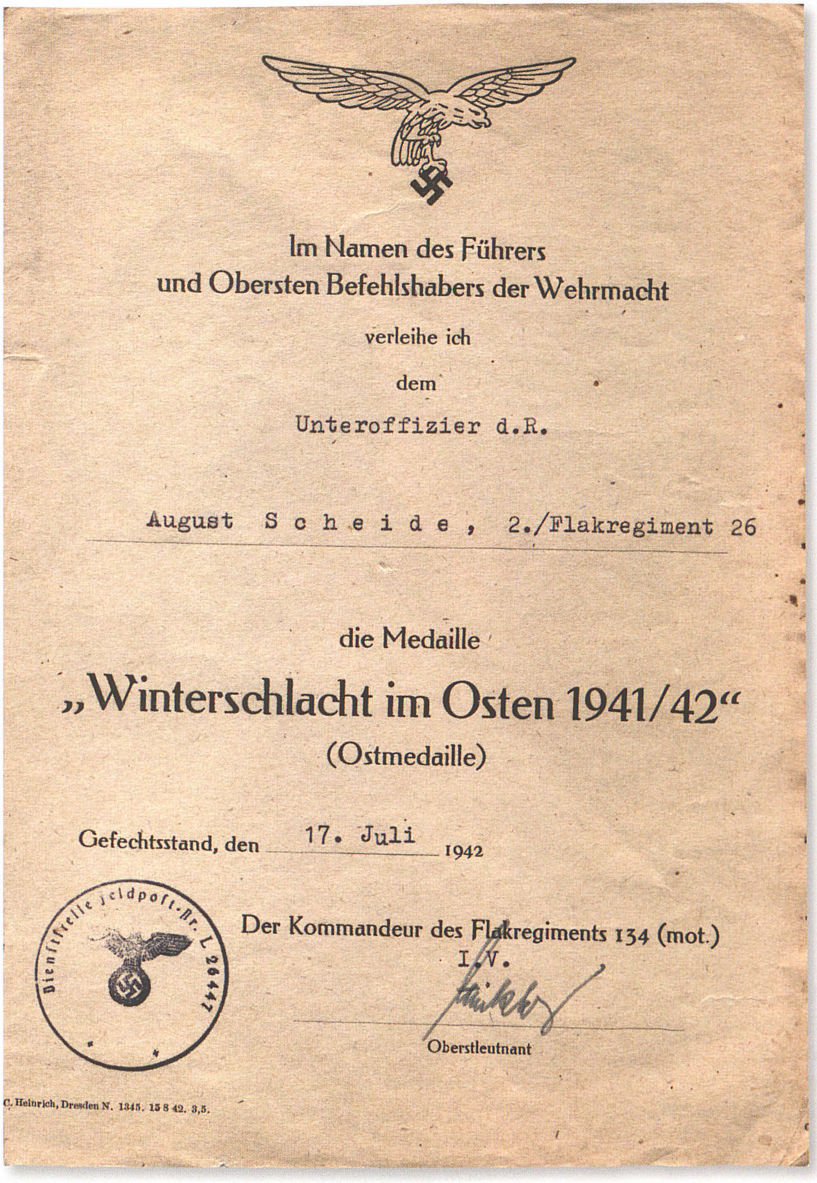
◀▲ The letter "S" in the lettering "IM OSTEN" tilts slightly to the left. The number "2" is greatly enlarged. Note the flattened berry on the branch above the blade.

The packaging bags of this manufacturer are uncommon. The paper has a reddish-brown color. The print looks clear with good color. ▼▶



Dimensions: *104 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection



Im Namen des Führers
und Obersten Befehlshabers der Wehrmacht

verleihe ich

dem

Unteroffizier d.R.

August S c h e i d e , 2./Flakregiment 26

die Medaille

„Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42"

(Ostmedaille)

Gefechtsstand, den 17. Juli 1942

Dienststelle Feldpost-Nr. L 26442

Der Kommandeur des Flakregiments 134 (mot.)
I.V.

Oberstleutnant

C. Heinrich, Dresden N. 1345. 15 8 42. 3,5.

▲ *A slightly rare award certificate for Unteroffizier (Sergeant) August Scheide of the 2nd / Flakregiment 26. Certified by an Oberstleutnant (Lieutenant Colonel) on behalf of the commander of Flak Regiment 134 (mot.)*

1.41.1 - MANUFACTURER 127 – MORITZ HAUSCH A.G. / PFORZHEIM

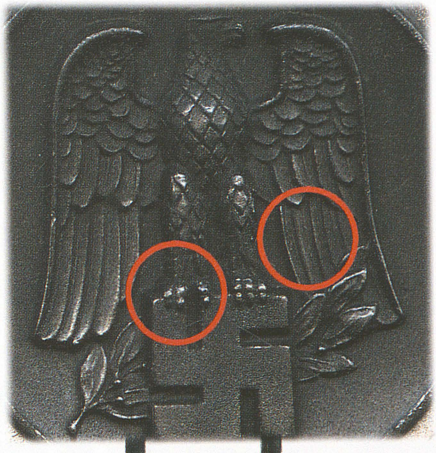
From the state telephone book 1942:

MORITZ HAUSCH A.G.
GOLDWAREN-FABRIK
DURLACHER STR. 49
PFORZHEIM
FERNRUF 35 91

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.55 mm*
Width:	*46.15 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Very dark color and good workmanship. Identical manufacturer's mark as on War Merit Crosses of this manufacturer. It is very common on the collectors' market.*

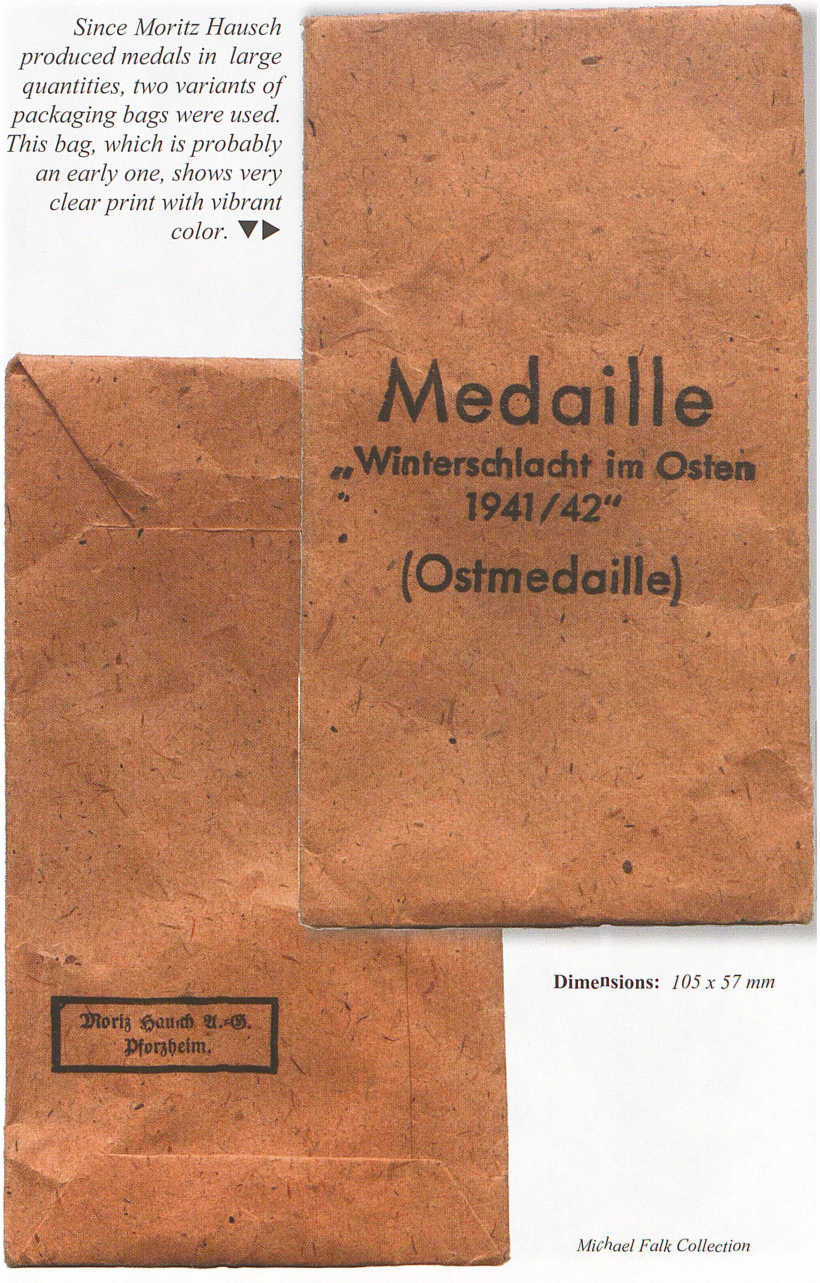
Michael Falk Collection

The left claws seem stunted. The plumage of the right wing has fine lines. ▼▶



◀▲ *The leaf of the laurel branch over the blade is stunted.*

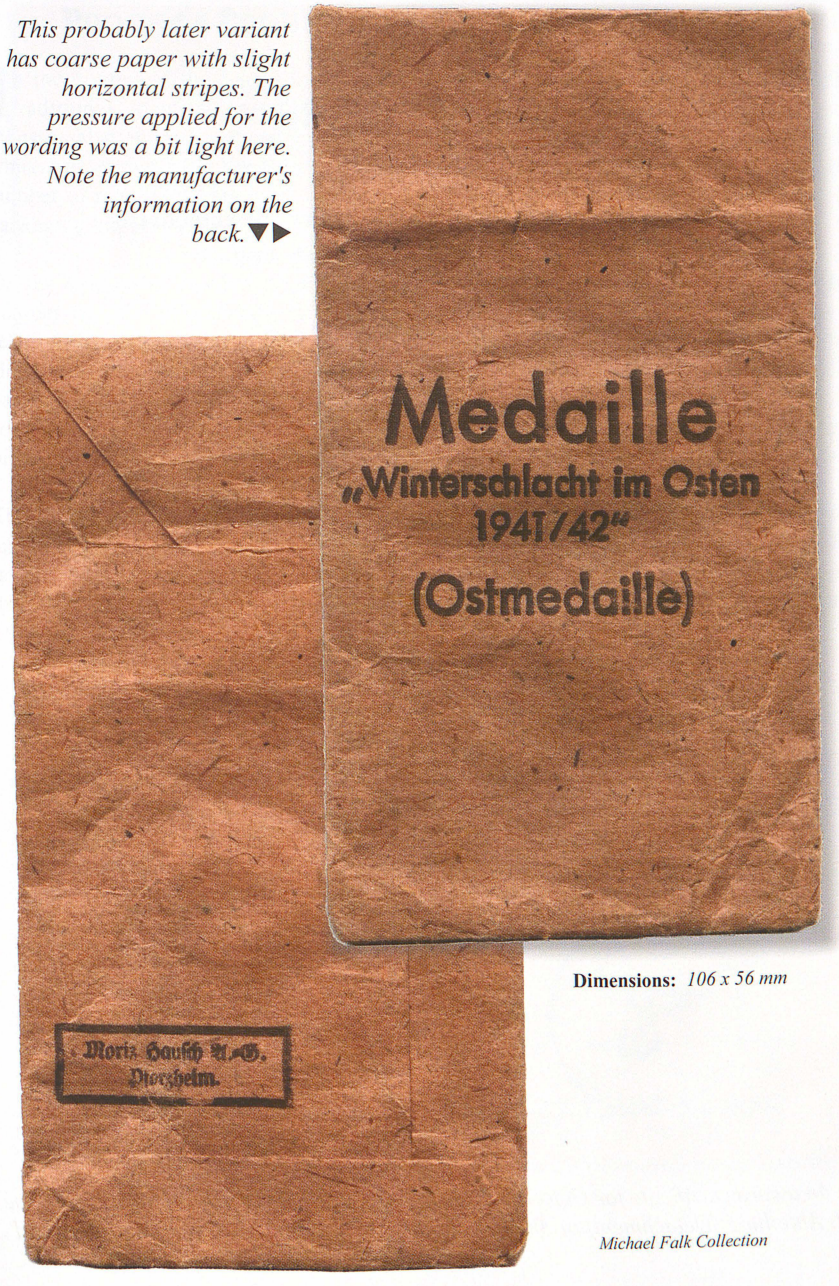
Since Moritz Hausch produced medals in large quantities, two variants of packaging bags were used. This bag, which is probably an early one, shows very clear print with vibrant color. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

This probably later variant has coarse paper with slight horizontal stripes. The pressure applied for the wording was a bit light here. Note the manufacturer's information on the back. ▼▶



Dimensions: *106 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

Besitzzeugnis

Im Namen des Führers und Obersten Befehlshabers
der Wehrmacht verleihe ich dem

Gefreiten Kurt Marxen
(Dienstgrad, Name)

5. / Art. Rgt. 66
(Truppenteil)

die

Medaille
„Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42"

Abt. Gef. St., den 16. Aug. 1942

(Unterschrift)
Hptm. u. Abt.-Kommandeur
II. /A. R. 66

(Dienstsiegel)

(Dienstgrad, Dienststellung)

Bestell-Nr. 1508. Hermann Beyer & Söhne (Beyer & Mann) Langensalza Din A 5.

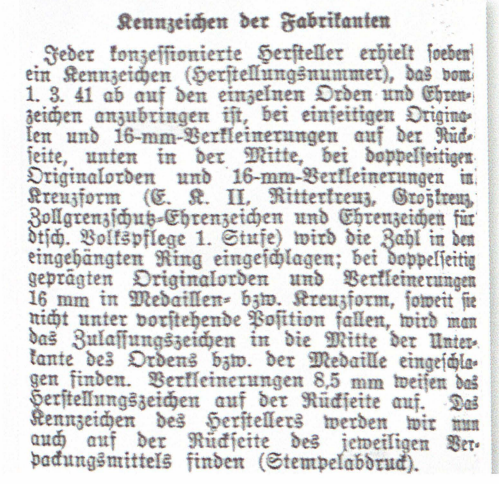
▲ *An award certificate for Gefreiten Kurt Marxen. Certified by the commander of the II. Abteilung (Detachment) of Artillery Regiment 66. A very rare simple form in Old German script!*

PROOF OF PRODUCTION USING PACKAGING BAGS

In the course of the war, the need for awards was so great that in addition to the traditional manufacturers, such as Ferdinand Hoffstätter, the metal-processing industry also mass-produced awards. In addition to the well-known manufacturers, which are known from the Presidential Chancellery's list of numbers, there were also a number of manufacturers who, to this day, can only be confirmed by the existence of a packaging bag.

On the collectors' market, many Eastern Front Medals appear with no manufacturer number on the ribbon ring. It is only possible to show that these pieces have a relationship to a known design, or to try to compare them to a specific embossing die. However, one can only assign an unmarked piece to a manufacturer if a corresponding packaging bag is present. In this case, however, a comparison of at least *three* identical sets (medal and bag) of a manufacturer must be made. Then it can be ruled out that a piece has been put in a packaging bag from another manufacturer in order to add value.

The following pieces and packaging bags are from different manufacturers of medals and decorations who are proven to have produced Eastern Front Medals, but probably never marked them. However, A marking of medals & decorations with the manufacturer number was required for each licensed manufacturer starting on 1 March 1941 to comply with guidance from the LDO.



Kennzeichen der Fabrikanten

Jeder konzessionierte Hersteller erhielt soeben ein Kennzeichen (Herstellungsnummer), das vom 1. 3. 41 ab auf den einzelnen Orden und Ehrenzeichen anzubringen ist, bei einseitigen Originalen und 16-mm-Verkleinerungen auf der Rückseite, unten in der Mitte, bei doppelseitigen Originalorden und 16-mm-Verkleinerungen in Kreuzform (E. K. II, Ritterkreuz, Großkreuz, Zollgrenzschutz-Ehrenzeichen und Ehrenzeichen für dtsch. Volkspflege 1. Stufe) wird die Zahl in den eingehängten Ring eingeschlagen; bei doppelseitig geprägten Originalorden und Verkleinerungen 16 mm in Medaillen- bzw. Kreuzform, soweit sie nicht unter vorstehende Position fallen, wird man das Zulassungszeichen in die Mitte der Unterkante des Ordens bzw. der Medaille eingeschlagen finden. Verkleinerungen 8,5 mm weisen das Herstellungszeichen auf der Rückseite auf. Das Kennzeichen des Herstellers werden wir nun auch auf der Rückseite des jeweiligen Verpackungsmittels finden (Stempelabdruck).

◀ *An article from the magazine "Uniformen-Markt" (issue 5, 01 Mar 1941). It was hereby announced that each licensed manufacturer of medals and decorations had to attach a manufacturer number.*

1.42.1 – Liefergemeinschaft Pforzheimer Schmuckhandwerker-Innungen / Pforzheim

Through scattered, untouched finds, it can be proven that this variant clearly belongs to the packaging bag shown subsequently, and thus to the supplier Pforzheimer Schmuckhandwerker. It is not possible to determine which member of the Pforzheimer Consortium produced this piece. Presumably it was one of the smaller Pforzheim jewelry and trinket companies.

From the state telephone book 1942:

Liefergemeinsch.
Pforzh. Schmuckhandwerker
Kreuzstr. 5
Pforzheim
Fernruf 67 59

.

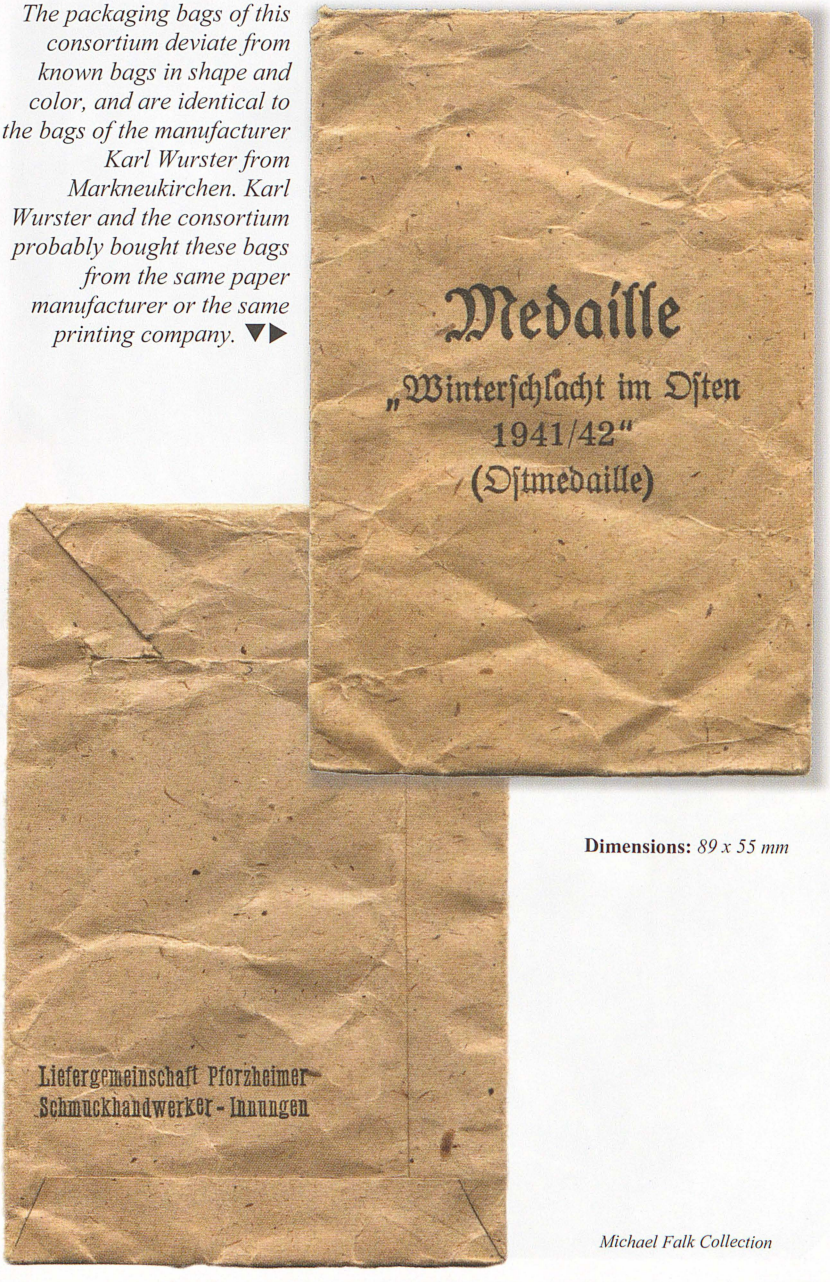
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.35 mm*
Width:	*36.20 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The piece still has a very good silver plating. The surface is, however, covered with small bubbles. Pieces from this manufacturer are not often found.*

Michael Falk Collection

The head of the eagle looks very distinctive. It has a "thick cheek". ▼▶

◀▲ *The letter "N" in the words "IM OSTEN" has unequal legs. This is a distinctive feature for pieces of this consortium.*

The packaging bags of this consortium deviate from known bags in shape and color, and are identical to the bags of the manufacturer Karl Wurster from Markneukirchen. Karl Wurster and the consortium probably bought these bags from the same paper manufacturer or the same printing company. ▼▶



Dimensions: *89 x 55 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

A very nice portrait of an unknown corporal of the mountain troops. Below the melee clasp in bronze he wears the small ribbon bar. Among others is the ribbon of the Eastern Front Medal.

1.43.1 – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Heeresbedarf i.d. Graveur- und Ziseleurinnung / Berlin

Through untouched finds it can be prove that this variant can be unambiguously assigned to the packaging bags shown subsequently, and thus to this group of manufacturers. Which companies joined together to form this consortium is still unknown.

.

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*45.10 mm*
Width:	*36.35 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Striking helmet shape. Pieces of this consortium are common.*

Michael Falk Collection

In the right wing, the plumage has a large flat surface. Note the striking claws. ▼▶

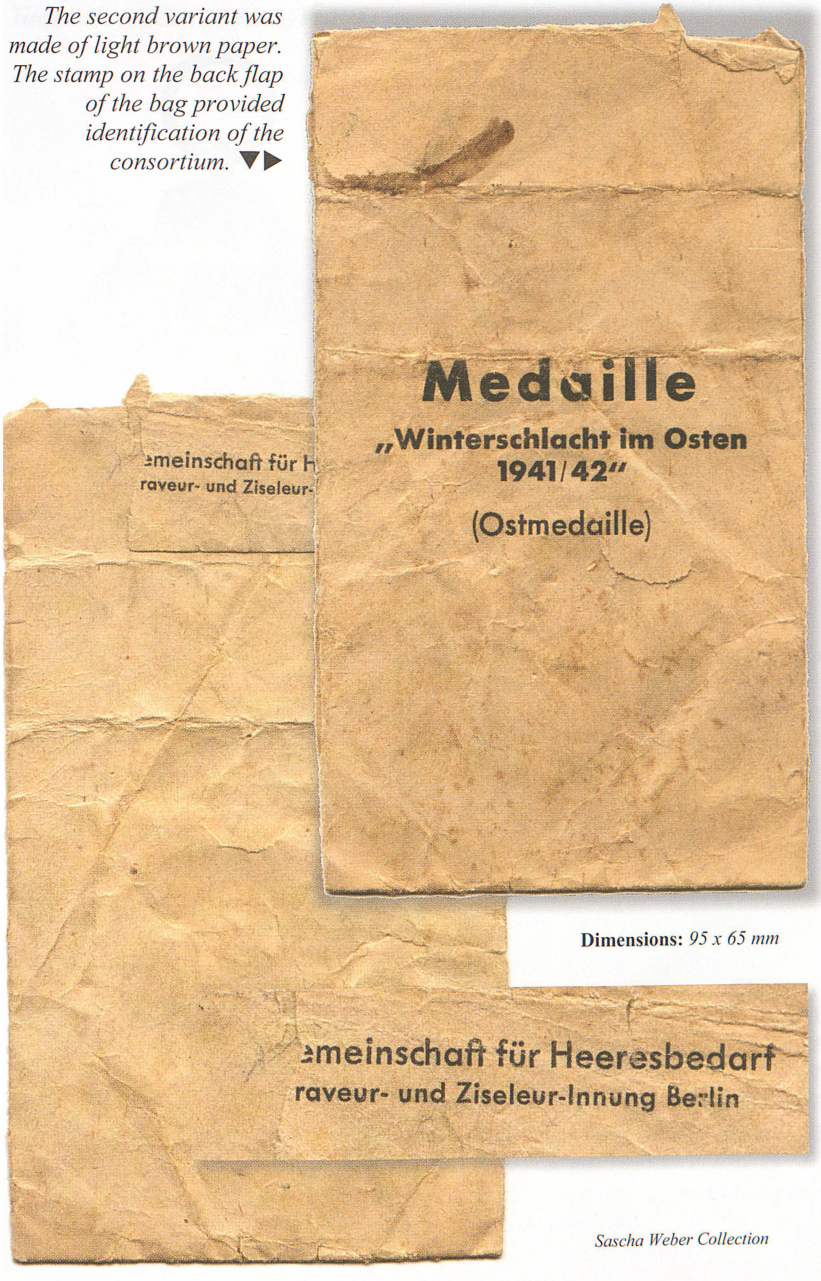
◀▲ *The impressive helmet shape is one of the characteristics of these pieces. The embossing was otherwise good.*

Two variants of packaging bags were used by this consortium. Here the first variant is in gray-brown color and has a serrated opening. ▼▶

Dimensions: *93 x 64 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

The second variant was made of light brown paper. The stamp on the back flap of the bag provided identification of the consortium. ▼▶



Dimensions: *95 x 65 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.44.1 – B.H. Mayer`s Kunstprägeanstalt / Pforzheim

Repeated findings of packaging bags with this variant inside prove that this was made by B.H. Mayer. Pieces marked with manufacturer number "26" are said to exist, but are extremely rare to find, as are the War Merit Crosses produced by this manufacturer.

From the state telephone book 1942:

Mayer B.H.
Prägeanstalt
Platz der SA 2
Pforzheim
Fernruf 61 60

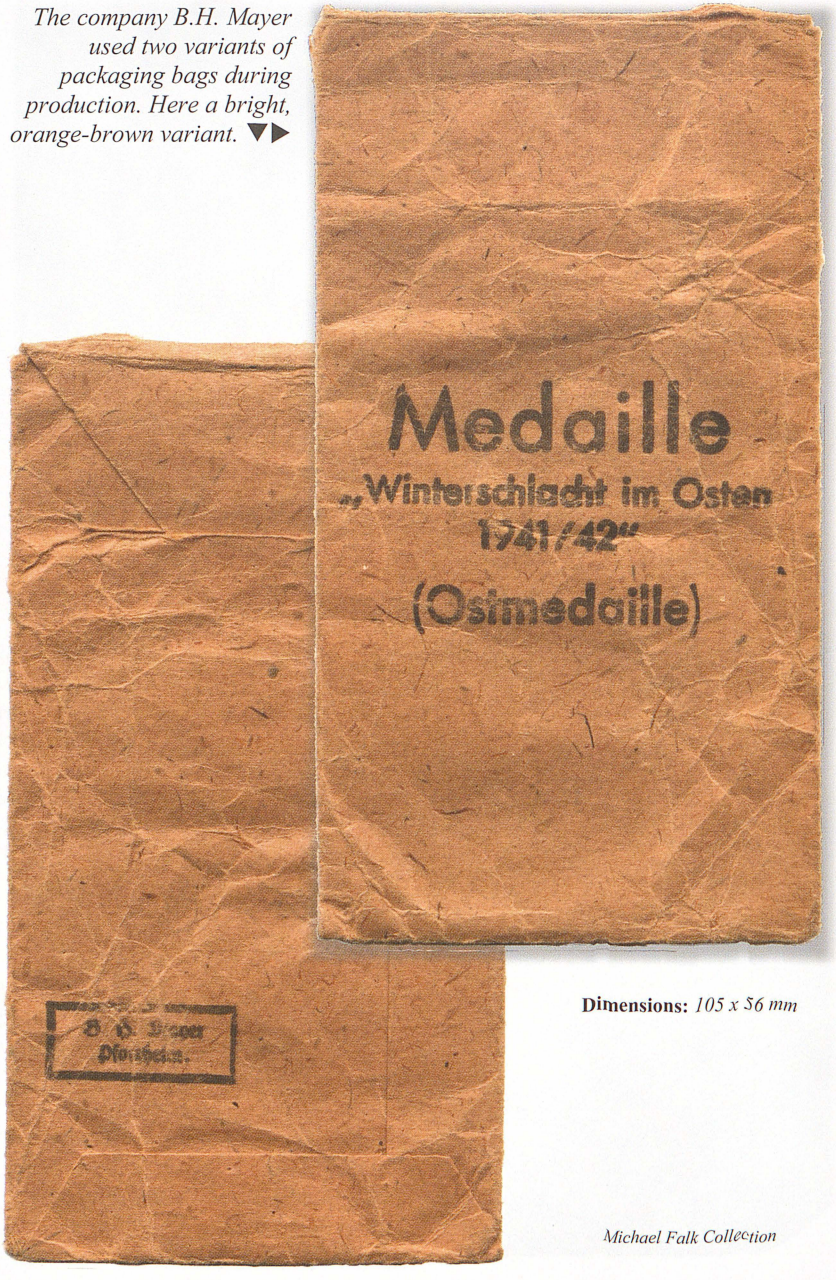
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.15 mm*
Width:	*36.10 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material / Eyelet:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*High-quality embossing and processing characterize pieces of this manufacturer. These are common on the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The head of the national eagle was designed very flat. The outermost claw on the left leg is stunted. ▼▶

◀▲ *The letters have serifs and were curved. The laurel branch on the back has only a stunted leaf on top of the blade..*

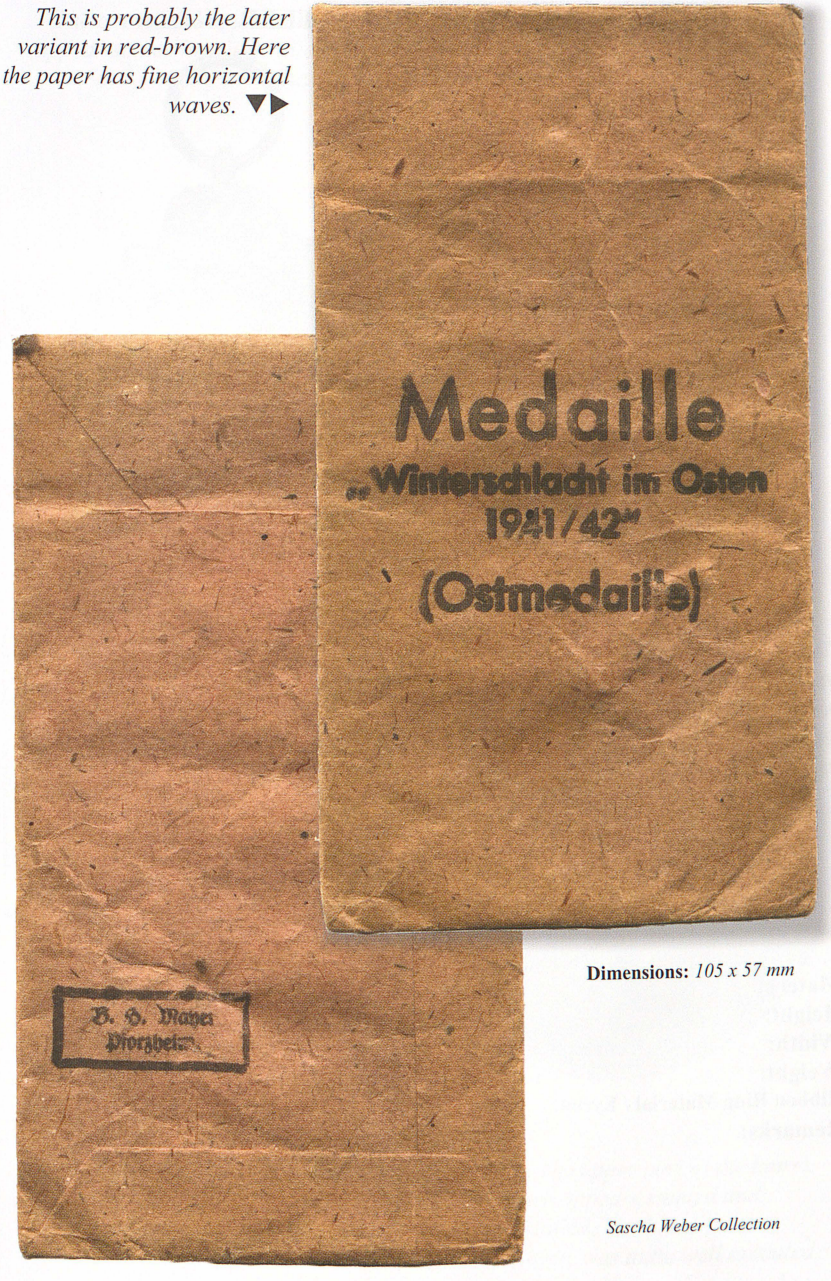
The company B.H. Mayer used two variants of packaging bags during production. Here a bright, orange-brown variant. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

This is probably the later variant in red-brown. Here the paper has fine horizontal waves. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.45.1 – Eugen Schmidhäußler / Pforzheim

Finds of packaging bags with this variant inside prove that this medal was manufactured by the company Eugen Schmidhäußler. Examples marked with a manufacturer number are still unknown.

From the state telephone book 1942:

Schmidhäußler, Eugen
Prägeanstalt
Lindenstr. 50
Pforzheim
Fernruf 56 73

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.25 mm*
Width:	*36.15 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material / Eyelet:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Somewhat weak detailing. Pieces from this manufacturer are very rare on the collectors' market.*

David Keßler Collection

The claws of the national eagle appear somewhat undetailed and thick. ▼▶

◀▲ *The upper part of the laurel branch appears stunted and undetailed. The lower part, however, was quite well executed.*

The packaging bags of Schmidhäußler have a bright orange-brown hue. ▼▶

Dimensions: *104 x 54 mm*

David Keßler Collection

Besitzzeugnis

Im Namen des Führers und Obersten Befehlshabers der Wehrmacht

verleihe ich dem

Feldwebel Friedrich- D e n e c k e
Julius
II./I.R.112

die Medaille
Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42
(Ostmedaille)

Inf. Regt. 112
Dienstsiegel

Oberst u.Rgt.Kdr.

O.U., den 25.8.1942.

S 345 Heidelberger Gutenberg-Druckerei GmbH. Den Haag 8-42 K 287

▲ *An award certificate for the Feldwebel Friedrich Denecke. Certified by the commander of Infantry Regiment 112. Please note the Heidelberg Gutenberg printing works stamp at the bottom.*

1.46.1 – KARL HENSLER / PFORZHEIM

Pieces produced by the Karl Hensler Company have an identical design to those produced by Eugen Schmidhäußler. This proves that both companies worked together or sourced their embossing tools from the same manufacturer.

From the state telephone book 1942:

HENSLER, KARL
ABZEICHENFABRIK
HOHENZOLLERN-STR. 90
PFORZHEIM
FERNRUF 33 84

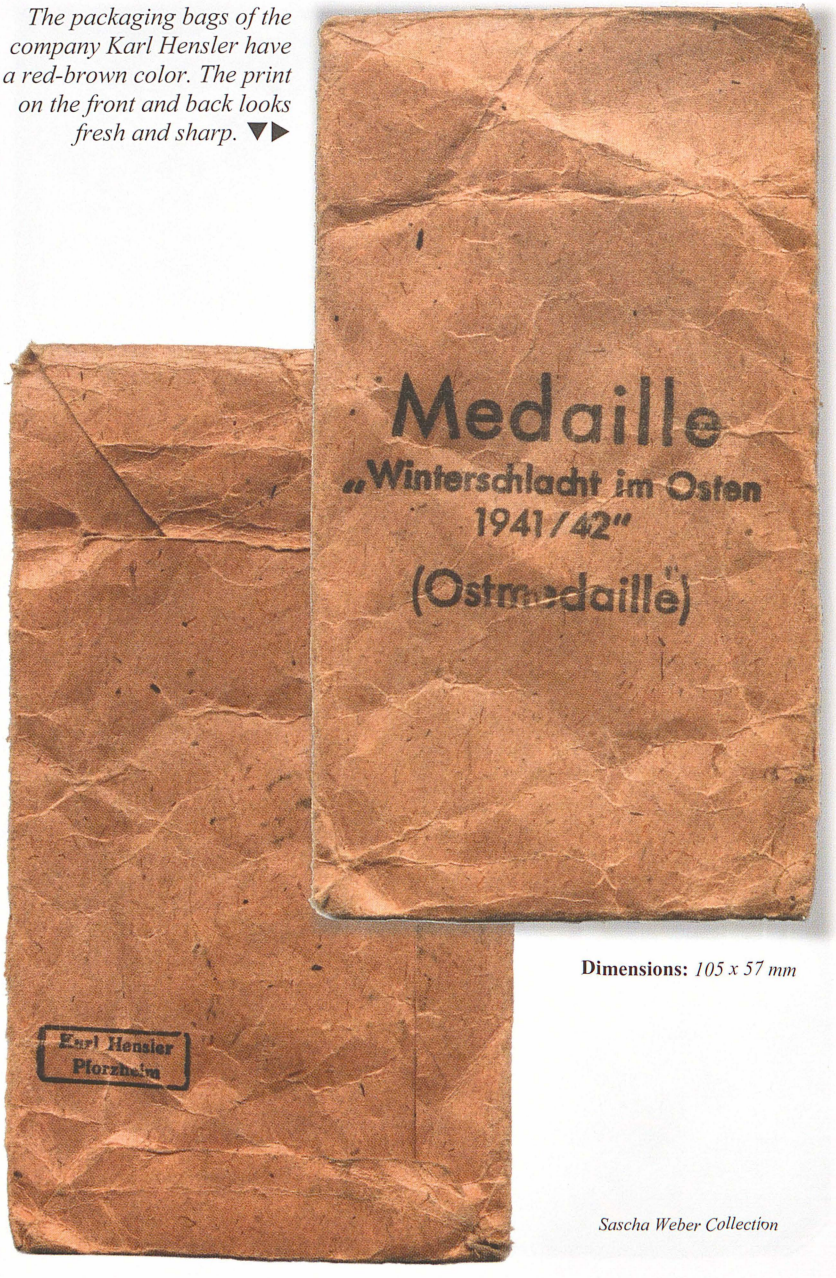
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.55 mm*
Width:	*36.95 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*High quality blacking and processing. Pieces from this manufacturer are relatively rare on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The laurel leaf visible in the lower left opening of the swastika is a characteristic of pieces made by both Hensler and Schmidhäußler. ▼▶

◀▲ *Again, it is nice to see the special shape of the letter "S" in the words "IM OSTEN".*
Also note here the stunted laurel leaf on the blade of the sword.

The packaging bags of the company Karl Hensler have a red-brown color. The print on the front and back looks fresh and sharp. ▼▶

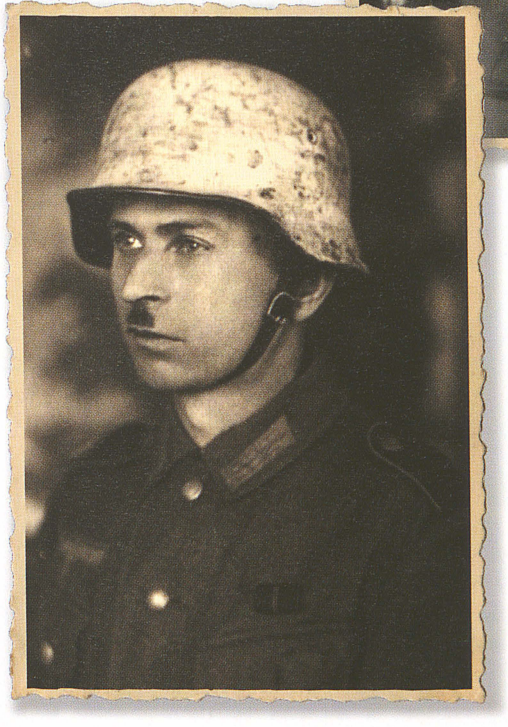


Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

An unknown Oberst (Colonel) who was awarded the "Eastern Front Medal" in addition to the General Assault Badge. Interestingly, He also wears a Luftwaffe Air Gunner's Badge. He probably switched from the Luftwaffe to the Army. ▼▶

Sascha Weber Collection



◀ *An unknown private with a single ribbon bar for the "Eastern Front Medal" over the left breast pocket. Note the winter camo of the steel helmet!*

Michael Lobbe Collection

1.47.1 – Friedrich Keller / Oberstein

This piece proves that the company Friedrich Keller from Oberstein must have received embossing or tools for the production of the Eastern Front Medal from a manufacturer from Pforzheim or the same engraving company. The design is identical to pieces of known Pforzheimer manufacturers.
Multiple finds in bags from Friedrich Keller underscore this.

From the state telephone book 1942:

Keller, Friedrich
Uhrenkettenfabrik
Wilhelmstr.
Idar-Oberstein
Fernruf 21 65

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.65 mm*
Width:	*36.15 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pforzheimer design. Pieces from this manufacturer and not common on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

Note here the large and wide reaching claws of the eagle. Also, the laurel leaf reaches into the lower left arm of the swastika. ▼▶

◀▲ *On this piece some areas of the edging are not smooth or filed down. Additionally, the laurel leaves on both the sword blade and above it are stunted.*

1.48.2 – FRIEDRICH KELLER / OBERSTEIN

A variant of the manufacturer Friedrich Keller from Oberstein is identical in its embossing with the previously shown piece. However, this one has a very finely grained surface. The ribbon ring also has a one-sided notch running throughout.

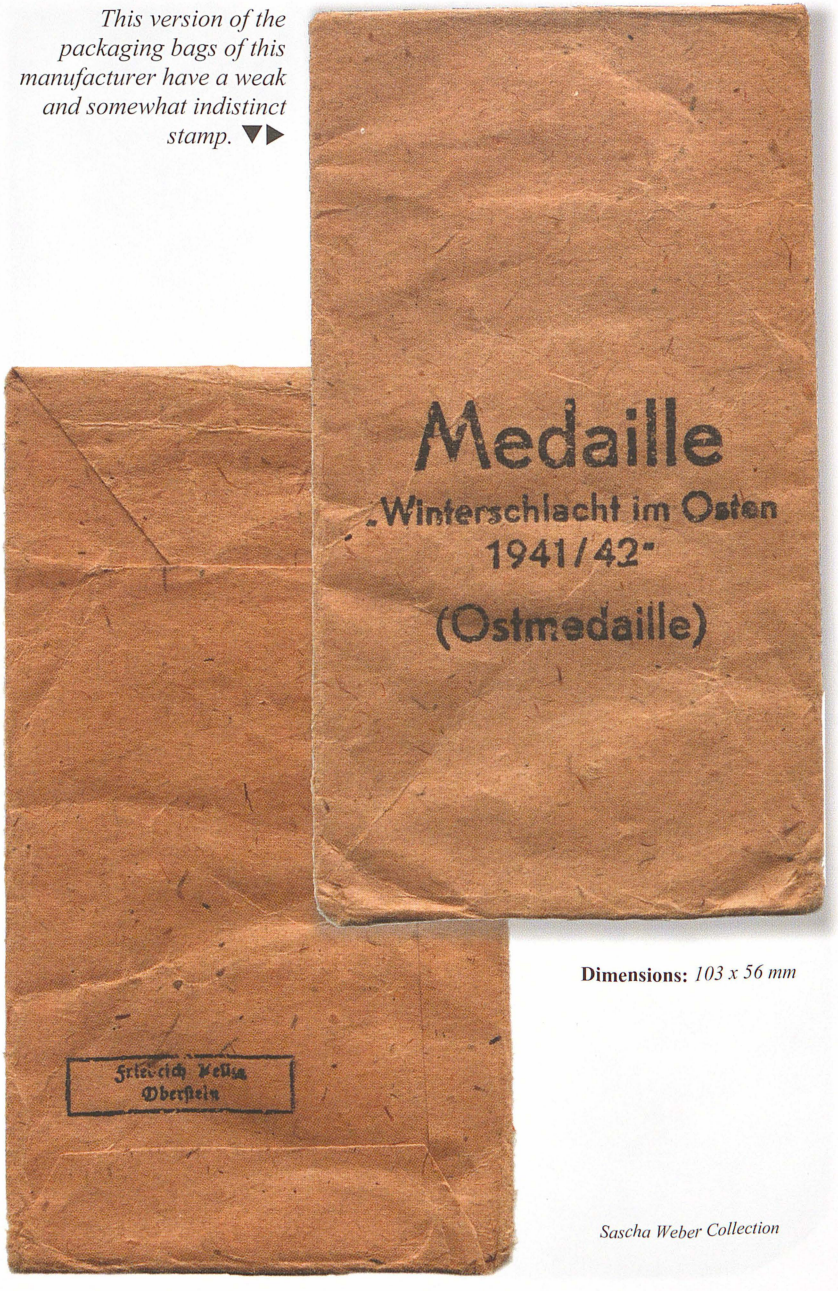
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.50 mm*
Width:	*36.20 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*A fine grainy surface. Pieces from this unknown manufacturer can often be found at the collectors' market.*

Michael Falk Collection

The piece has a fine grained surface. The ribbon ring has a fine, one-sided, continuous notch - a distinguishing feature for this variant ▼▶

◀▲ The rear ventilation hole of the steel helmet is only slightly recognizable here. The top of the laurel branch is very weak.

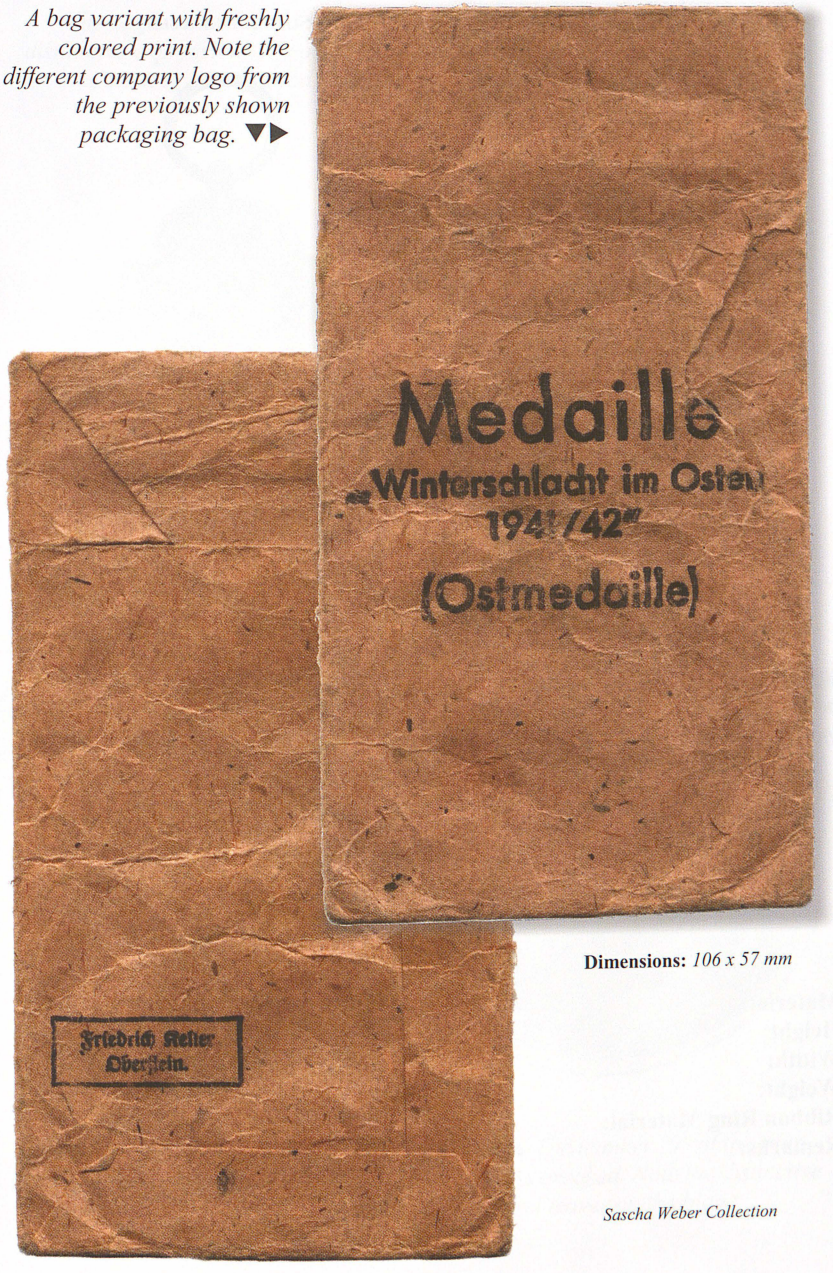
This version of the packaging bags of this manufacturer have a weak and somewhat indistinct stamp. ▼▶



Dimensions: *103 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

A bag variant with freshly colored print. Note the different company logo from the previously shown packaging bag. ▼▶



Dimensions: *106 x 57 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.49.1 – CARL POELLATH / SCHROBENHAUSEN

By repeated, untouched finds it can be proven that Carl Poellath was the manufacturer of this unmarked piece.

From the state telephone book 1942:

POELLATH, CARL
PRÄGEWERK
ADOLF-HITLER-STR. 371
SCHROBENHAUSEN
FERNRUF 8

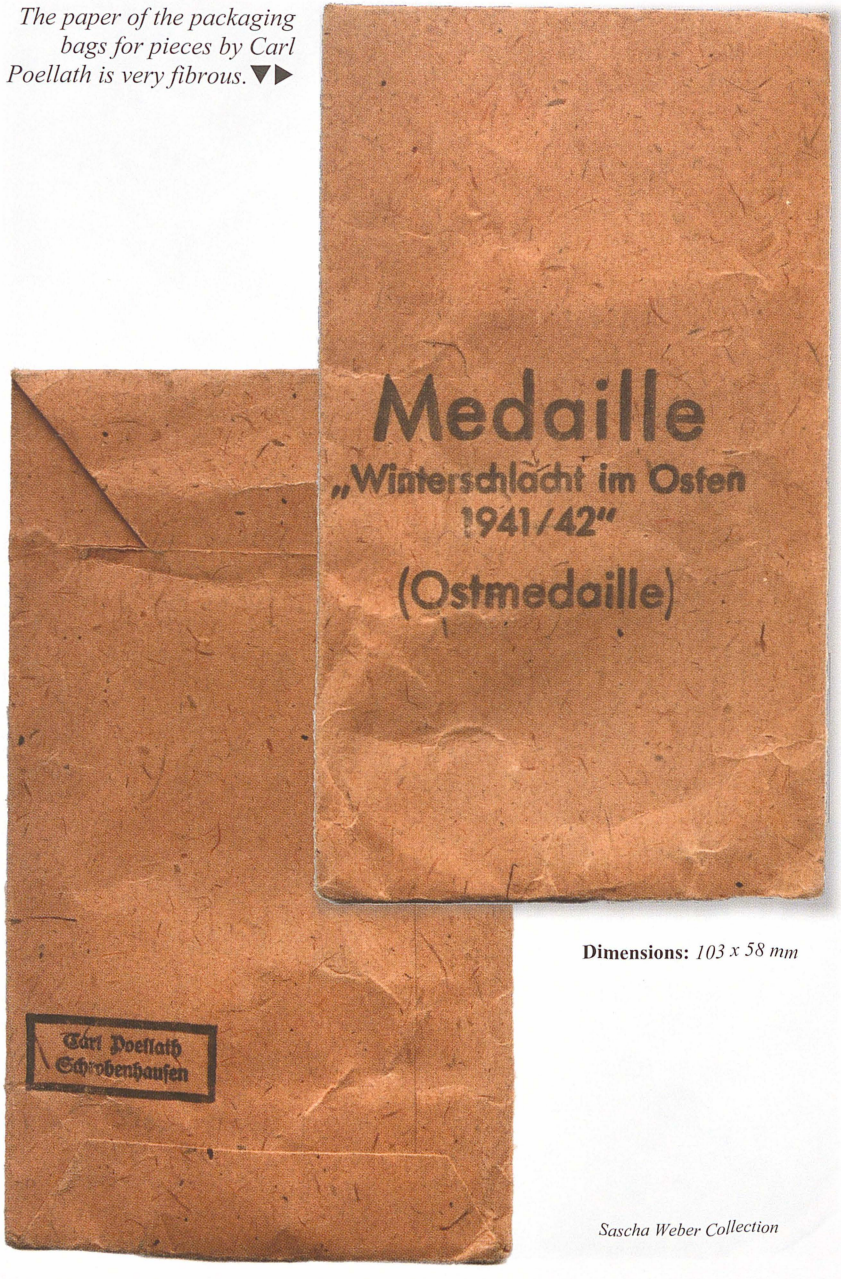
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.55 mm*
Width:	*37.75 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*The opening of the ribbon ring was not soldered. Very flat piece. These medals are uncommon.*

Sascha Weber Collection

The eagle's head has a strong distinctive expression. The overall detailing is very good. ▼▶

◀▲ The number "9" of the year looks crooked. Note the distinctive laurel leaves on the blade.

The paper of the packaging bags for pieces by Carl Poellath is very fibrous. ▼▶



Dimensions: *103 x 58 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

An award certificate for the laborer August Kafka. Form in DIN A5 format. Certified by an official of the Dnipropetrovsk regional transport administration.▶

Bastian Brücker Collection

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM
Betriebs-Arbeiter
August K a f k a
AM 30. Oktober 1942
DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.
FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:
Radom, den 16. Juni 1944
Reichsverkehrsdirektion Dnjepropetrowsk

IM NAMEN DES FÜHR
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM
Hptm. W. Gerlach
AM 1.8.1942
DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.
Offz.-Lehrgang d. Pz.-Tr.
Gr.-Glienicke,
den 1. 10. 1943
FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:
Oberst und Lehrgangskommandeur

◀ *Another award certificate for Hauptmann W. Gerlach. He was awarded the Eastern Front Medal at the officer training course of the Panzertruppen (Armor troops) in Glienicke. Standard form in DIN A5 format. Certified by the course commander.*

Bastian Brücker Collection

1.50.1 – RUDOLF SOUVAL / WIEN

Marked pieces of the manufacturer Rudolf Souval are completely unknown to this day. The evidence provided here is in reference to pieces that were found in packaging bags of Rudolf Souval.

From the state telephone book 1942:

SOUVAL, RUDOLF
SILBERWAREN
STRAßE DER JULIKÄMPFER 23
WIEN VII/62
FERNRUF B3 50 10

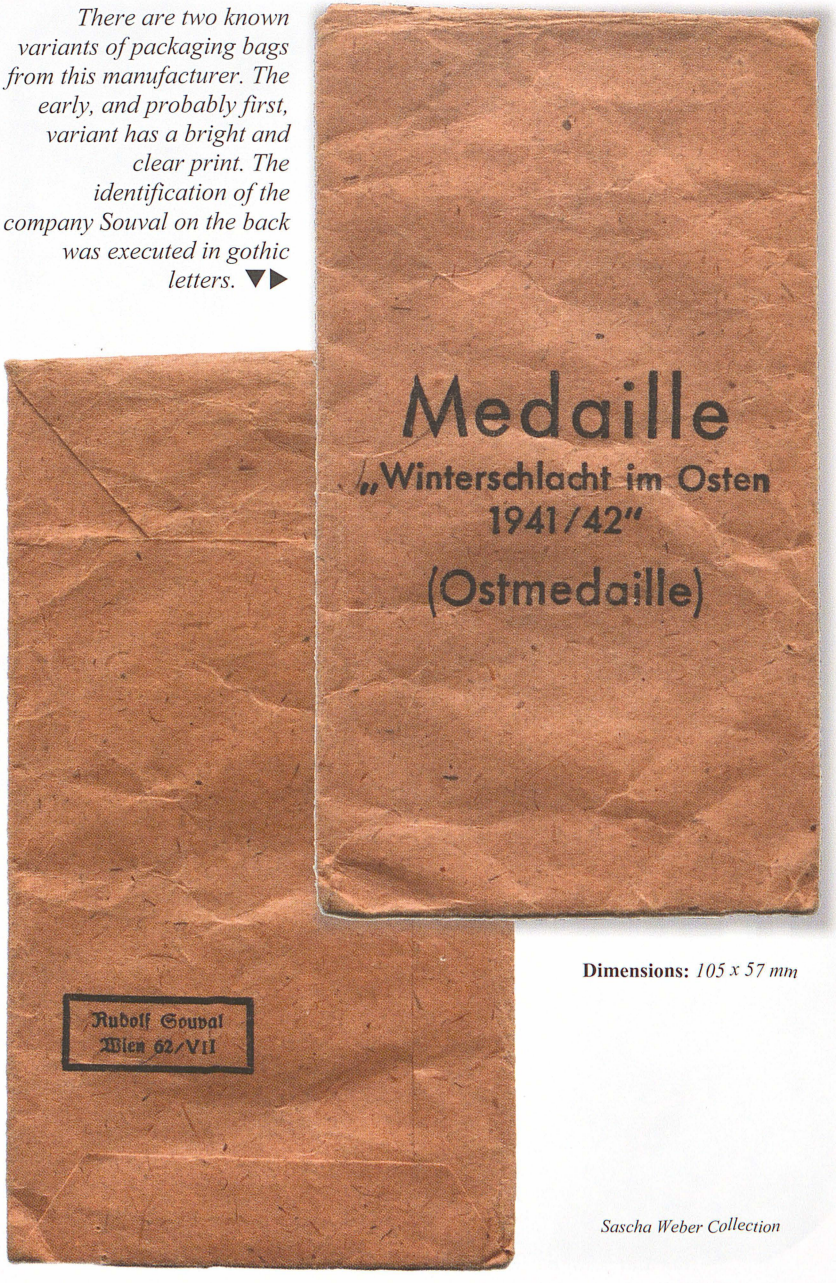
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.45 mm*
Width:	*35.95 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Identical in design to the pieces of the manufacturer "15" - Friedrich Orth and "30" - Hauptmünzamt Wien. The front has a strong inside vault. Pieces of this manufacturer are common on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

A feature of pieces by Rudolf Souval is the smaller and narrower right leg (including thigh) of the national eagle. ▼▶

◀▲ *The brim of the steel helmet is low. The upper leaves of the laurel branch on the back consist of only an outline and are not pronounced.*

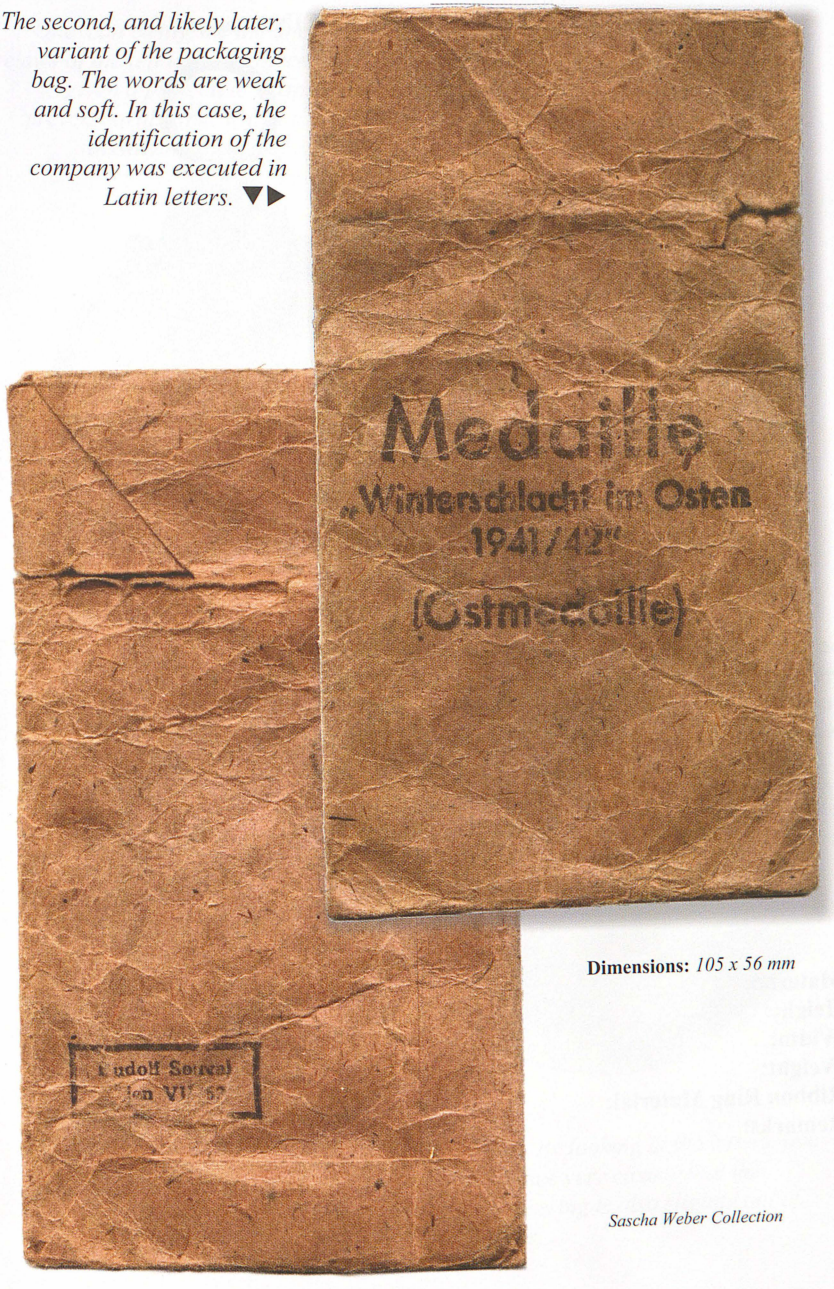
There are two known variants of packaging bags from this manufacturer. The early, and probably first, variant has a bright and clear print. The identification of the company Souval on the back was executed in gothic letters. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

The second, and likely later, variant of the packaging bag. The words are weak and soft. In this case, the identification of the company was executed in Latin letters. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

1.51.1 – WALTER & HENLEIN / GABLONZ A.N.

So far, marked pieces from the manufacturer Walter & Henlein are completely unknown. Most unmarked pieces are in fair condition.

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From the state telephone book 1942:

WALTER & HENLEIN
SCHMUCK- U.
METALLWARENFABRIK
FALKENGASSE 29
GABLONZ
FERNRUF 35 22

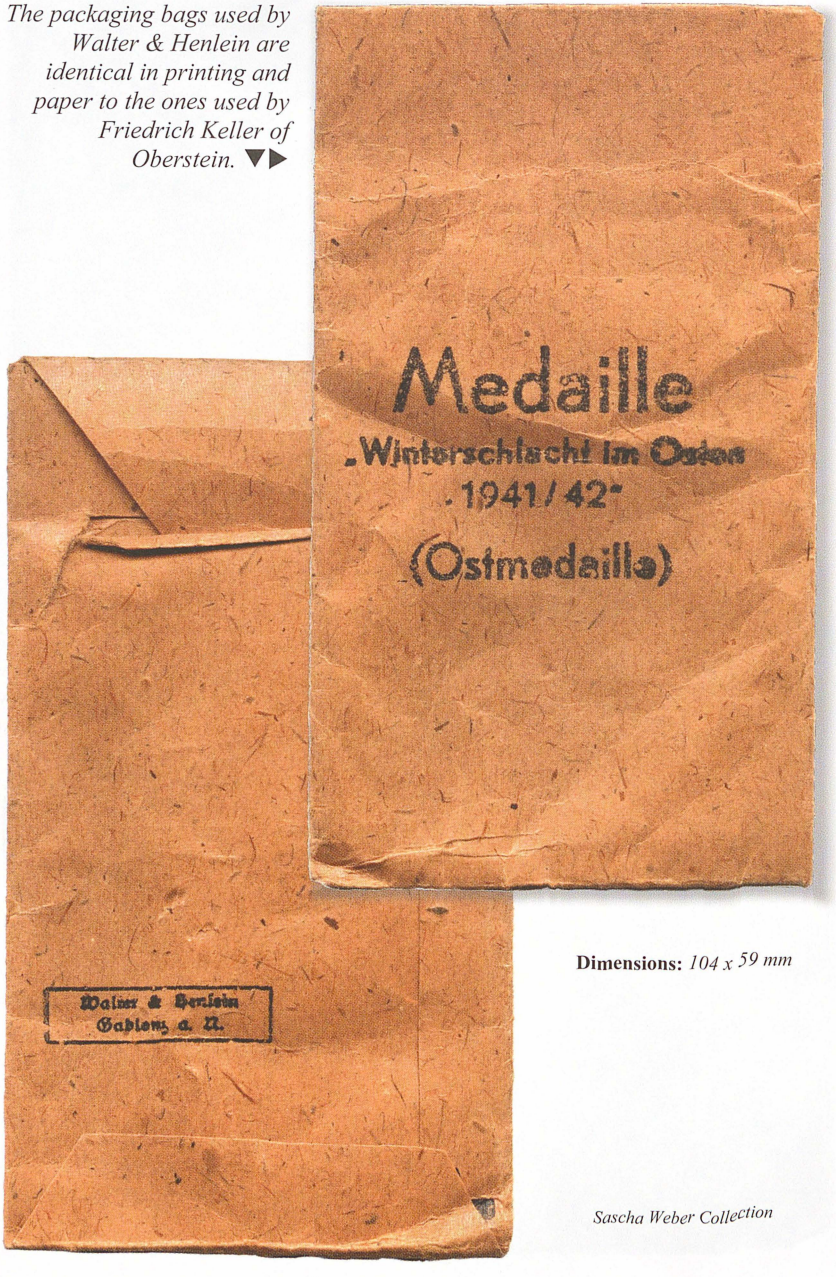
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.25 mm*
Width:	*36.50 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces were provided with a tarnish protection (Zapponlack?). These are very rare on the collectors' market.*

Sascha Weber Collection

One can easily see the unequal claws of the left leg. The piece was given a protective varnish to prevent tarnishing, which is now dissolving due to age.▼▶

◀▲ By looking at the letters, one can see very clearly that the embossing is also slightly out of focus.

The packaging bags used by Walter & Henlein are identical in printing and paper to the ones used by Friedrich Keller of Oberstein. ▼▶



Dimensions: *104 x 59 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

Walter & Henlein – Company History:

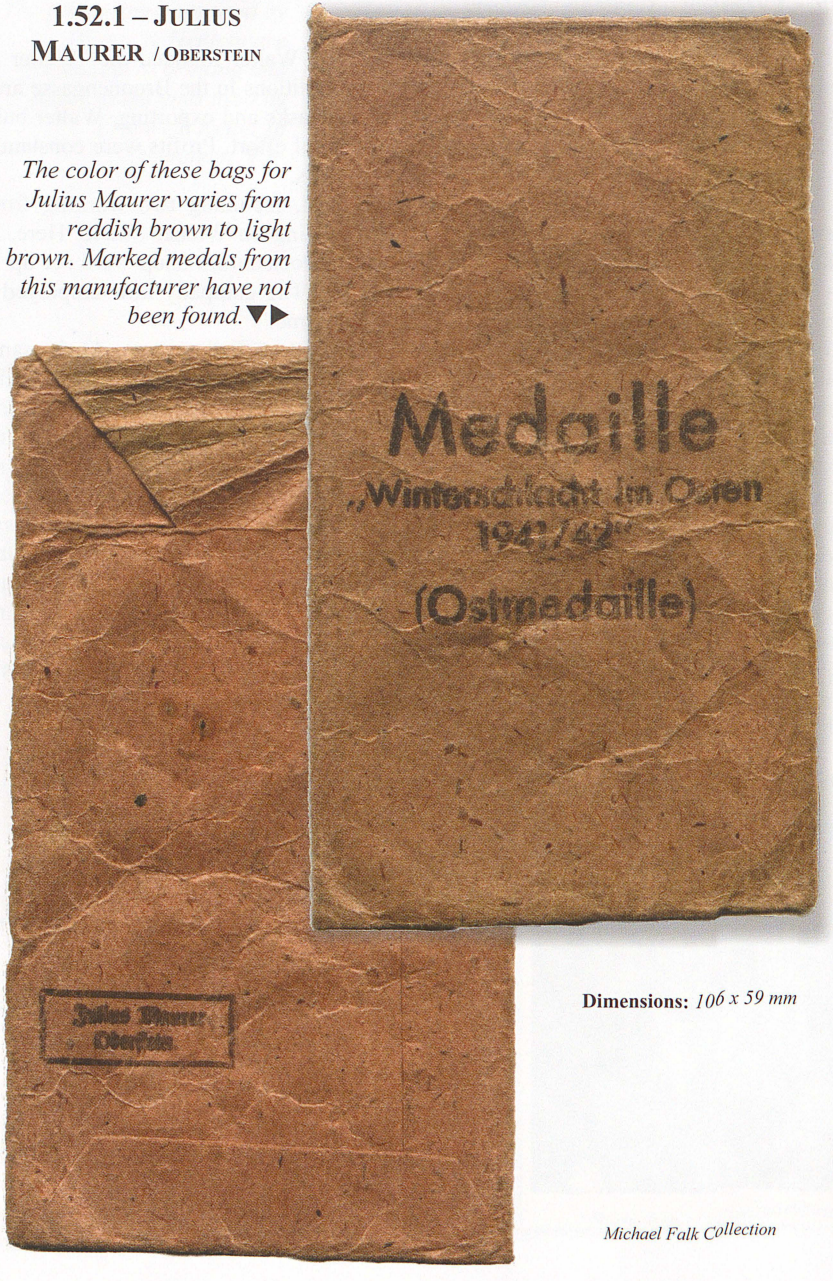
In 1928, together with exporter Franze Henlein, Otto Walter founded the "Walter & Henlein" company. It was formed under primitive conditions in the Brunnengasse area of Gablonz. While Henlein took care of the business tasks and exporting, Walter built up the workshop and production through great personal effort. Profits were constantly reinvested in the acquisition of new machinery and tools.
In the initial phase, seven personnel were employed, including two working from home. In 1931, the company moved to a larger building on Wiener Straße. Here, in addition, a press shop, an electroplating shop, and a locksmith's shop were set up to give the firm independence from out-sourcing work. The company now employed a total of 28 employees, including eight working from home.
In 1936, the company moved to a newly built building on Falkengasse. At the same time, the machine shop and electroplating plant were also expanded. In 1938, the company received a modern injection molding machine to develop a new line of work. The number of employees had now grown to a total of 110. In 1941, a factory building was purchased to handle the many armaments orders. In addition to medals and decorations, ignition tips, timed fuses, and armament components made of plastic were also produced, amonst other things. After the end of the war in 1945, the company was seized from the owners and they were driven out of Gablonz the following year. Otto Walter started another business in late 1946 in Kaufbeuren, and built a building with work rooms. In 1948 he teamed up with glass jewelery producer Alfred Preacher and founded the company "Walter & Preacher". As early as 1952, 250 people were employed again. The company still exists today at the Kaufbeuren location, and is a member of the "Bundesverband der Gablonzer Industrie e.V." (Federal Association of Gablonz Industry)

Otto Walter

◀ *Otto Walter was born in 1906 in Zuckmantel near Teplitz-Schönau (Sudetenland). After getting his secondary education in Prague, he studied jewelry production at the Gablonz State School. After completing this technical college, he worked for several years as an assistant in various workshops. Mostly he was used as a pattern maker or pattern artist. At the age of only 22, he founded his own company with Franz Henlein. Aspiration, diligence, and ambition characterized him.*
This picture was taken in the mid-1950s..

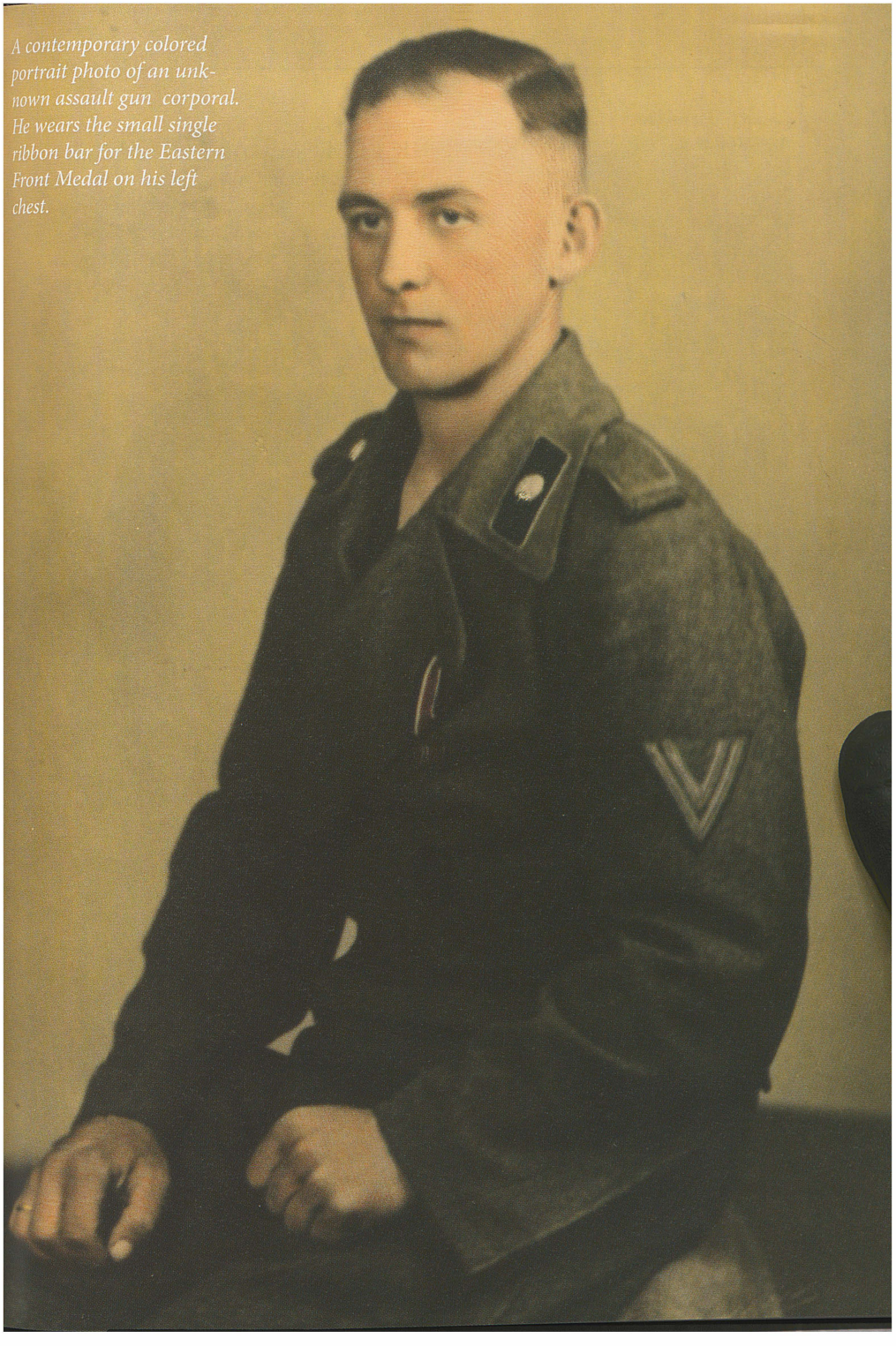
1.52.1 – JULIUS MAURER / OBERSTEIN

The color of these bags for Julius Maurer varies from reddish brown to light brown. Marked medals from this manufacturer have not been found.▼▶



Dimensions: *106 x 59 mm*

Michael Falk Collection



A contemporary colored portrait photo of an unknown assault gun corporal. He wears the small single ribbon bar for the Eastern Front Medal on his left chest.

1.53.1 – METALLWARENFABRIK POSEN – HANS DIEREN – POSEN

This piece features the so-called "Pforzheim design". The production differs, however, from the well-known manufacturers of Pforzheim by the extremely dark oxidation. The manufacturer number is unknown.

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.95 mm*
Width:	*35.70 mm*
Weight:	*15.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Buntmetal*
Remarks:	*Very thin and light medal. Pieces of this unknown manufacturer are rarely found on the collectors' market.*

Michael Lobbe Collection

The national eagle is identical to the pieces of the well-known Pforzheimer manufacturers. The striking ventilation holes and rivets of the steel helmet are conspicuous here. ▼▶

◀▲ *Note the striking "S" in the lettering "WINTERSCHLACHT" and the stunted laurel leaf on the blade of the sword.*

Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Stijn David Collection

GABLONZ – DESIGN 1

Manufacturer 39

Manufacturer 61

Manufacturer 63

◀▲▼ *Note the striking position of the claws and the design of the head.*

Manufacturer 71

Manufacturer 85

GABLONZ – DESIGN 1

Manufacturer 71

Manufacturer 61

◀▲▼ *The laurel leaf on the blade seems stunted.*

Manufacturer 92

Manufacturer 93

Manufacturer 110

GABLONZ – DESIGN 2

Manufacturer 109

Manufacturer 109

◀▲▼ *The beak shape deviates from Design 1. The laurel leaves are undetailed.*

Manufacturer 117

Manufacturer 117

PFORZHEIM – DESIGN

Manufacturer 10

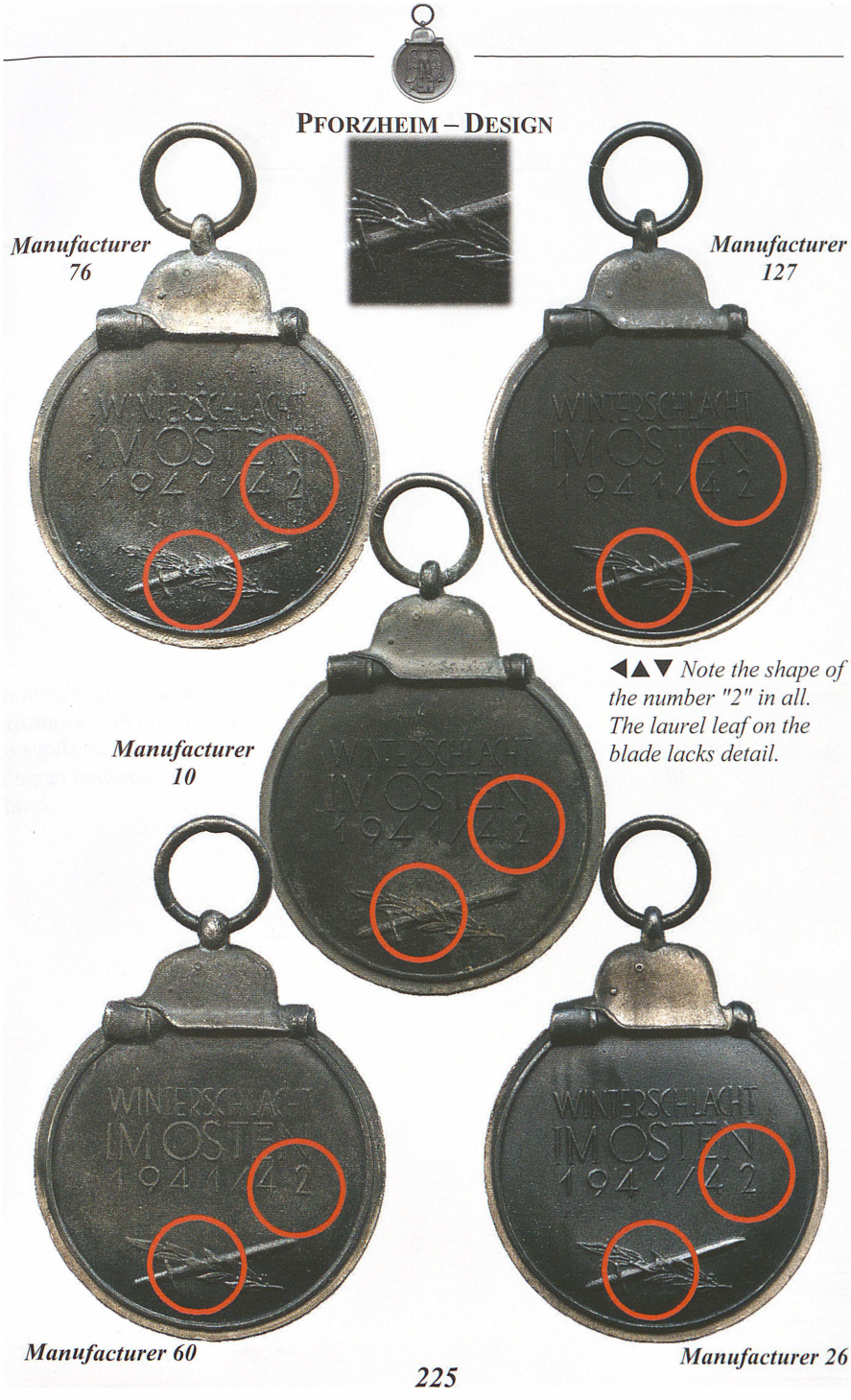
Manufacturer 20

Manufacturer 26

◀▲▼ *By looking at the legs of the eagle, one can immediately recognize the identical design .*

Manufacturer 57

Manufacturer 60


PFORZHEIM – DESIGN
Manufacturer 76
Manufacturer 127
◀▲▼ Note the shape of the number "2" in all. The laurel leaf on the blade lacks detail.
Manufacturer 10
Manufacturer 60
Manufacturer 26

VIENNA – DESIGN

Manufacturer 11

Manufacturer 15

Manufacturer 30

◀▲▼ *The Viennese design can be recognzied by the unique shape of the national eagle's head.*

Manufacturer 98

Manufacturer 108

VIENNA – DESIGN

Manufacturer 11

Manufacturer 15

◀▲▼ *The bottom laurel leaf is either slightly embossed or half closed.*

Manufacturer 30

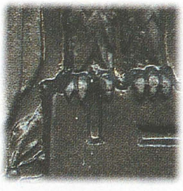
Manufacturer 98

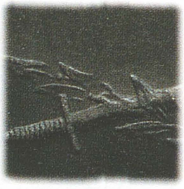
Manufacturer 108

OSANG-REDO – DESIGN

Manufacturer 80

Manufacturer 80





◀▲▼ *The claws and the broken laurel branch are design characteristics of both manufacturers.*

Manufacturer 88

Manufacturer 88

MARKNEUKIRCHEN – DESIGN

Manufacturer 13

Manufacturer 13

◀▲▼ *The eagle's head is wide and dull. The laurel leaf is well developed, but deviates in shape.*

Manufacturer 18

Manufacturer 18

THE „METALL & KUNSTSTOFF“ CONSORTIUM OF GABLONZ

In the course of the war, the need for the awards, both newly created and those already established, increased enormously. The classic manufacturers of these items, such as Steinhauer & Lück or Deschler & Sohn, were most likely very busy with production and there were probably more orders than they could manage. Therefore, this market became incredibly lucrative for conventional metalware manufacturers, smaller metalworking companies, costume jewelery manufacturers, and even watch chain manufacturers.

Since the cost factor also played a role here - after all, the embossing and stamping tools had to be procured or made - smaller companies probably joined together to form working or supply associations. In order to ensure a profit was made, items had to be produced as economically as possible. Consortiums made it possible for small companies to provide each other with tools (accounts for identical embossed designs) and purchase parts or help out with machines if necessary.

In Gablonz, at the time in the Sudetenland and now known as Jablonec in the Czech Republic, smaller companies and firms probably combined to form the "Arbeitsgemeinschaft Metall & Kunststoff" (Consortium of Metals and Plastics) It is also known by the manufacturer's mark A.G.M.u.K on the Close Combat Clasp of the Army. The exact number of companies and firms of this consortium is still unknown. Presumably it could have been at least seven or eight.

As part of the research on this book, it was notable that Eastern Front Medals in packaging bags with the indication "Metall & Kunststoff" always had the following manufacturer numbers: "39" - Rudolf Berge, "63" - Franz Klamt, "71" - Rudolf Leukert, "73" - Franz Mänert and "85" - Julius Pietsch. All four of these were based in Gablonz. Until now, the "Josef Rücker & Sohn" company was the only known manufacturer that was affiliated with this consortium.

It should be noted that the manufacturer Julius Pietsch also used packaging bags with their own company name. Interestingly, in a balance sheet from the company Josef Rückert dated 30 June 1945, the firms of Julius Pietsch and Rudolf Leukert received goods from this company, as did the "Metall & Kunststoff " Consortium. The fact that the two companies and the consortium were listed separately, and Julius Pietsch also used packaging bags with their own company name, probably confirms that both Pietsch and Leukert bought for their own needs, sold items under their own names, and at the same time likely were members of the consortium, distributing products on its behalf. Other medals found in "Metall & Kunststoff" packaging bags were entirely unmarked, but most featured the identical Gablonzer design used by almost all of the Gablonzer manufacturers, except the manufacturers "109" - Walter & Henlein and "117" - Hugo Lang. One can assume that medals differing in design probably do not belong in these bags.

The "Metall & Kunststoff" Consortium not only produced medals and decorations, but also produced parts for the defense industry, including plastics. This is probably the reason for its name. Whether the "Metall & Kunststoff" Consortium received an assigned orders and decorations manufacturer number from the Presidential Chancellory - as did the "der Graveur-, Gold. and Silberschmiedeinnungen" Consortium from Hanau - is still unknown. An independent manufacturer number for products of the "Metall & Kunststoff" Consortium cannot be proven to this day. Not even a common office, known to exist with other consortiums, can be found, even in the last issue of the state telephone book dated 1942. Presumably, an affiliated company would have been entrusted with the business affairs and distribution of the products of this consortium.

▲ *Gablonz on the Neisse (Sudetengau) around 1938. Industry in the Gablonz district employed up to 35,000 people in the metal and jewelery industry. After their expulsion in 1946, large parts of the Gablonzer industry settled in, amongst other places, Karlsruhe and Kaufbeuren (Neugablonz).*

1.54.1 – UNKNOWN MANUFACTURER - GABLONZ-DESIGN

This variant has the Gablonz design and was most certainly produced by a manufacturer from there. The fact that this unmarked variant was found in a packaging bag of the "Metall & Kunststoff" from Gablonz, proves that this unknown manufacturer probably belonged to this consortium.

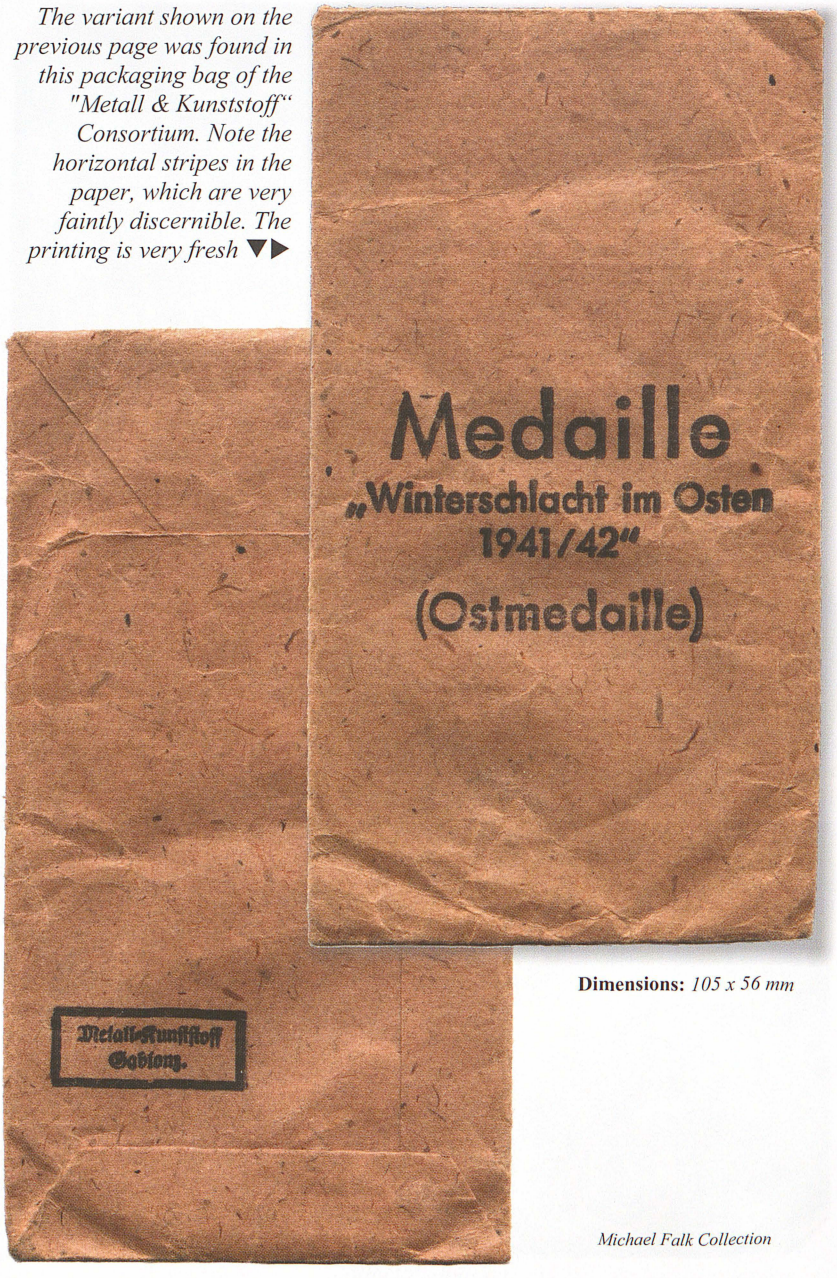
Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.40 mm*
Width:	*35.70 mm*
Weight:	*21.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Good, detailed production with clearly raised lettering. This variant is not found often on the collectors market.*

Michael Falk Collection

Very nice to see the distinctive and expressive head of the eagle. ▼▶

◀▲ *The logos are clear and sharp. Also note here the compressed laurel on the sword.*

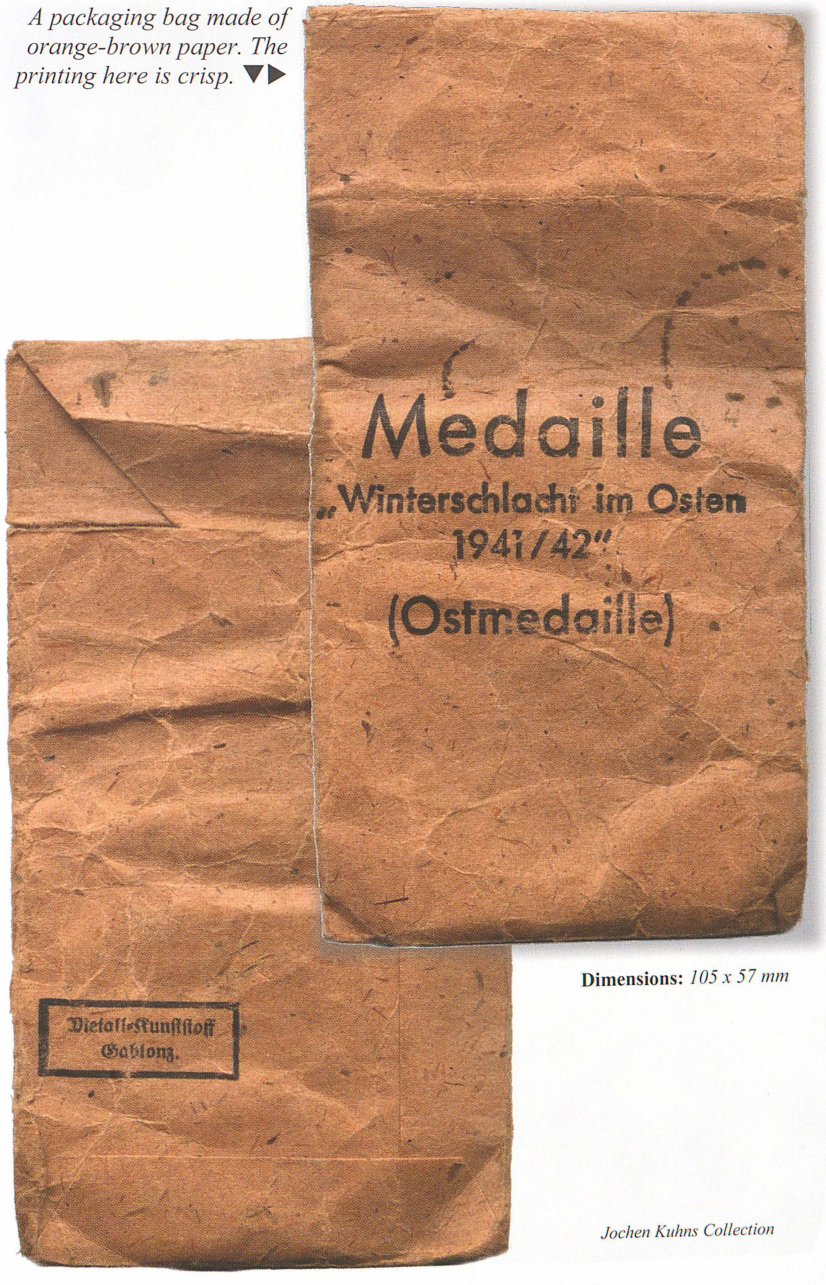
The variant shown on the previous page was found in this packaging bag of the "Metall & Kunststoff" Consortium. Note the horizontal stripes in the paper, which are very faintly discernible. The printing is very fresh ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 56 mm*

Michael Falk Collection

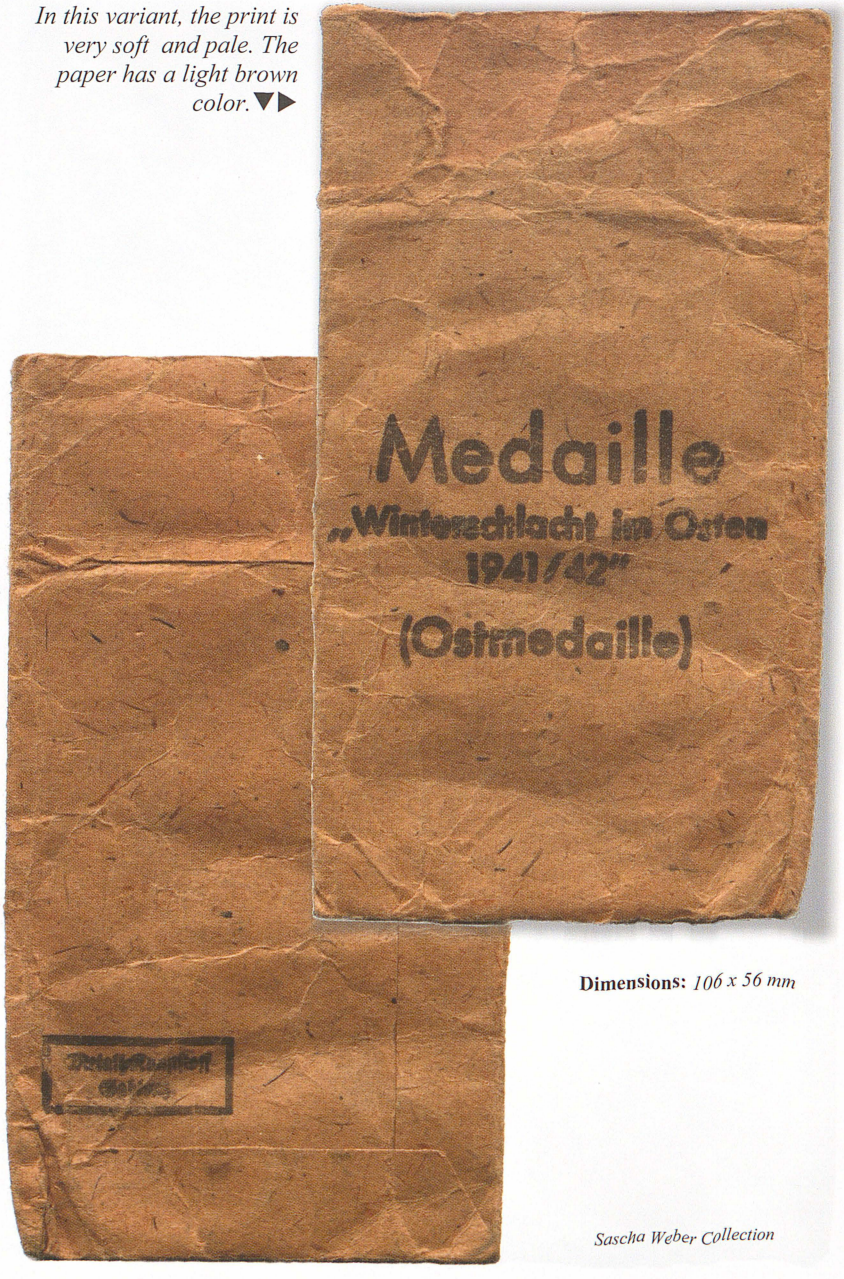
A packaging bag made of orange-brown paper. The printing here is crisp. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 57 mm*

Jochen Kuhns Collection

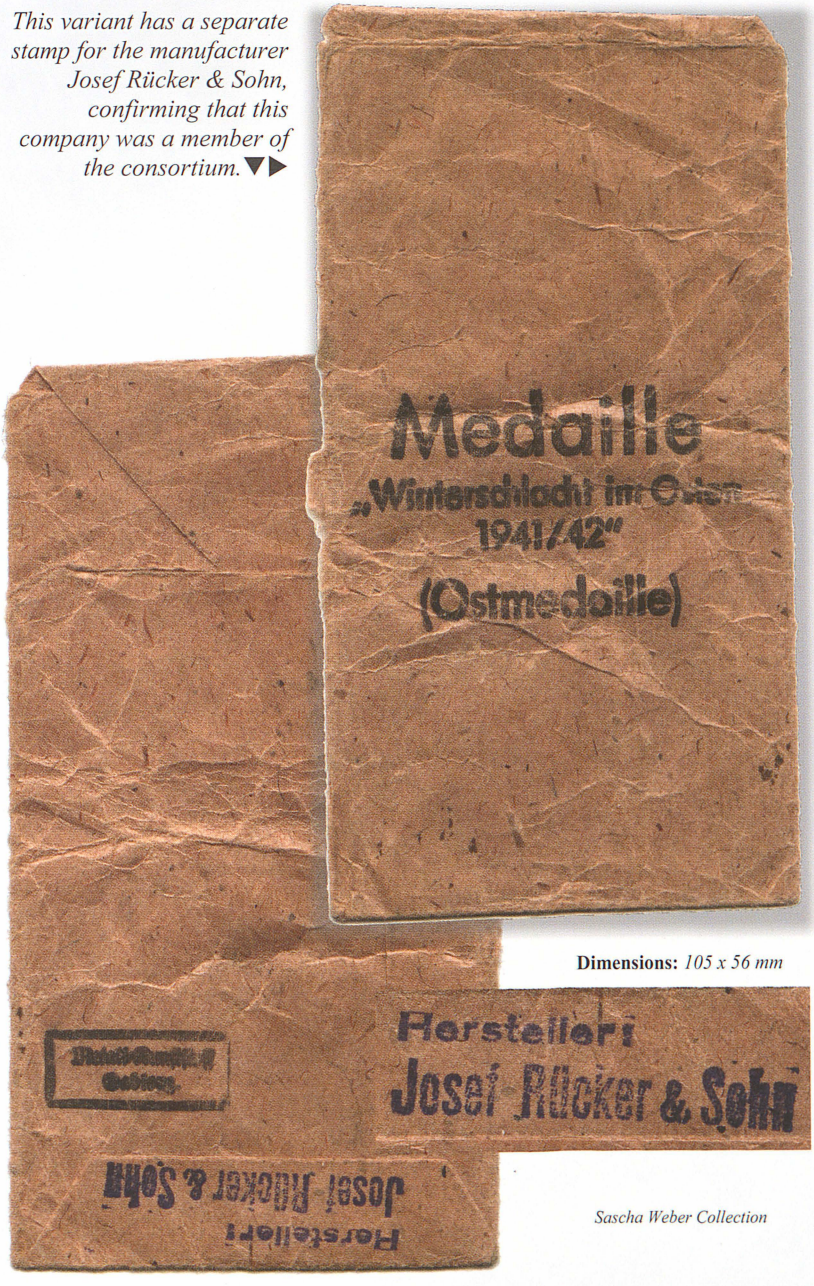
In this variant, the print is very soft and pale. The paper has a light brown color. ▼▶



Dimensions: *106 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

This variant has a separate stamp for the manufacturer Josef Rücker & Sohn, confirming that this company was a member of the consortium. ▼▶



Dimensions: *105 x 56 mm*

Sascha Weber Collection

An unknown official of the Reichsbahn (RBD Dresden) (National Railroad) wears the ribbon for the Eastern Front Medal next to the one for the War Merit Cross.

CURIOSITIES

As with other awards that were created during the war from 1939-45, there are also various interesting pieces and variants related to the Eastern Front Medal that deserve to be presented here. There are contemporary Eastern Front Medals which have embossing errors in the lettering on the back, in the form of shifted or bent letters. There are also medals that were produced in Spain for members of the "Blue Division" (Spanish volunteers).

There are also so-called denazified pieces from the post-war period. In these pieces, the swastika was modified, ground off, or pierced by its owners. Such denazified pieces, in combination with contemporary documents or photos of the wearer, may well have their appeal, and would impressively demonstrate the career of the wearer.

So-called "blanks" - medals not finished by the manufacturer - have yet to appear on the collectors' market.

Finally, contemporary pieces found in the ground when searching with the metal detector, so-called "ground finds" can be classified in this category. While such pieces may not seem odd, they are ultimately interesting in their nature, as these pieces can document a contemporary production by a manufacturer.

◀ *Well-preserved finds such as this piece have their charm. Especially if it proves that a manufacturer was a contemporary producer of the Eastern Front Medal.*

1.55.01 - HERSTELLER L 15 – POST-WAR-MADE

The Eastern Front Medals and War Merit Crosses available on the collectors market with the maker's mark "L 15" were not marked as such during the war, and were introduced to increase the value of the piece. Rare, marked variants of the manufacturer Otto Schickle from Pforzheim are being spread to the detriment of the collector. More information on this topic following pages.

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.25 mm*
Width:	*36.85 mm*
Weight:	*18.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Pieces bearing the maker's mark "L 15" are all postwar productions of resourceful counterfeiters. The medal is the "Vienna Design".*

Private Collection

Conspicuous in this medal is the very good quality and finishing. Either the medal was made on original tools and it correctly adhered to the ....▼▶

◀▲ ....production process, or contemporary pieces were marked. The medal itself has the identical design of some Viennese manufacturers. Note the half-filled laurel leaf here.

"L 15" (without slash) - why not contemporary by Otto Schickle?

Basically, the idea of the counterfeiters was not bad. You take unmarked Eastern Front Medals and stamp them with a manufacturer's mark that has never been found on Eastern Front Medal ribbon rings. This medal is then offered as an extremely rare manufacturer variant on the collectors market, multiplying its value. On the surface, it would be difficult to prove otherwise. However, the counterfeiters made a bad mistake - they took the manufacturer mark "L 15" (without a slash) - which was demonstrably assigned on 1 March 1941 of the company Otto Schickle from Pforzheim.

However, in a communication from the Presidential Chancellery of 15 July 1941 in the magazine "Uniforms-Market", it was announced that the company Otto Schickle had received the approval "*to fulfill all orders of the Orders and Decorations of the Third Reich that are still in stock through the mediation of the LDO.*". What did this mean? Dietrich Maerz assumes in his book "The Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross", that Otto Schickle ceased production due to business closure. The reasons for this are not known yet - whether insolvency or for other reasons, it still cannot be determined. If one takes this fact into account and looks at the foundation date of the Eastern Front Medal - May 26, 1942 - Otto Schickle could never have made a single Eastern Front Medal.

The different design of the medal from Pforzheim's manufacturers would also account for this. The medal marked "L 15" (without slash) clearly shows the design of manufacturers from Vienna. This is to be taken as a further indication that these medals were probably made after 1945 on old stamping tools (in compliance with the known production techniques) of a former Viennese manufacturer.

This is reinforced by the fact that the War Merit Cross Second Class with Swords (all made of zinc) on the collector's market, which have the mark "L 15", have the design of the Viennese manufacturers.

Addionally, War Merit Crosses made of buntmetal, which were demonstrably made by Otto Schickle, have a different design (see also Michael Falk - The War Merit Cross 2nd Class with Swords). These were marked with the manufacturer's mark "L / 15" (with slash). The fact that contemporary pieces by Otto Schickle were stamped with the maker's mark "L / 15" (with slash) is further proof that the maker's mark "L 15" (without slash) was applied after 1945. The omission of the slash in the mark is a huge mistake by the counterfeiters, who thankfully had not studied the matter more closely.
It is obvious that Eastern Front Medals and War Merit Crosses with the mark without a slash were undoubtedly produced to the detriment of the collector and probably on remarkably old tools.

◀▲ *Not contemporary, but probably made on old original tools, the pieces were marked with the maker's mark "L 15".*

Mitteilungen der Präsidialkanzlei
(Ordenskanzlei)

Die Präsidialkanzlei teilt mit:

Auf Grund der Verordnung über
liche Einführung von Normen, G
Lieferbedingungen sowie von Güte-
nungsvorschriften vom 8. 9. 193
S. 1745) in Verbindung mit dem
Reichswirtschaftsministers vom 5.
III B. L. 16/40[1] — ordne ich an w

Die Bestimmungen meiner Ano
25. 7. 1940 (RMBliV. S. 1869), vo
(RMBliV. S. 2045), vom 8. 1. 194
S. 126) und vom 26. 5. 1941 (RMB
werden mit Wirkung vom 1. 1. 1
Orden und Ehrenzeichen des Weltkri

Berlin, den 9. Juli 1941.

Der Staatsminister und Chef der Präsidialkanzlei des Führers und Reichskanzlers.
gez. Dr. Meißner.

*

Die Firma Otto Schickle, Pforzheim, hat die Genehmigung erhalten, ihre noch auf Lager befindlichen Erzeugnisse in Orden und Ehrenzeichen des Dritten Reichs durch Vermittelung der Leistungsgemeinschaft der Deutschen Ordenhersteller, die die Qualitätsprüfung vornehmen wird, in den Handel zu bringen. Die Leistungsgemeinschaft hat die Durchführung des Ausverkaufs der Industrie- und Handelskammer Pforzheim übertragen.

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◀▲ *This official announcement from the Presidential Chancellery in the magazine Uniform-Market dated 15 July 1941, proves that Otto Schickle probably only produced medals and decorations until the spring of 1941.*

1.56.01 – UNKNOWN MAKER / MIS-SHAPED

A variant of an unknown manufacturer with the mis-shaped letter "N" in the lettering "IM OSTEN". Interestingly enough, the mistake would have been due to the embossing tool. How could a leg of this letter have been so deformed?

Material:	*Zinc*
Height:	*44.15 mm*
Width:	*35.00 mm*
Weight:	*19.00 g*
Ribbon Ring Material:	*Iron*
Remarks:	*Deformed letters. Only known variant with this embossing error.*

Sascha Weber Collection

This piece has a well-defined imprint. ▼▶

◀▲ *In addition to the letter "N", the letter "T" in the upper area is also deformed.*

◀▼ *On rare occastions a so-called "Spanish production" of an Eastern Front Medal appears on the collector's market. These would have been awarded to members of the "Blue Division" (Spanish volunteers). Whether it is contemporary or a postwar production cannot be determined.*

Thomas Wessolleck Collection

A temporary award document for Matrosengefreiter Johannes Ideus. Printed form in small format. Certified by the commander of the naval defense, Crimea. ▶

Josef Majer Collection

Vorläufiges Besitzzeugnis

Dem Matr.Gefr. I d e u s , Johannes

wurde am 1. Nov. 1942

die **Ostmedaille**

verliehen.

O. U., den 21. Nov. 1942

Der Kommandant

der Seeverteidigung Krim.

Konteradmiral.

IM NAMEN DES FÜHRERS
UND
OBERSTEN BEFEHLSHABERS
DER WEHRMACHT
IST DEM

Kraftfahr-Obermaat

S t ü c h e r (Eugen)

AM 1. Dezember 1942

DIE MEDAILLE
WINTERSCHLACHT IM OSTEN
1941/42
(OSTMEDAILLE)
VERLIEHEN WORDEN.

O.U., den 22. Juni 1943

FÜR DIE RICHTIGKEIT:

Kapitän zur See und Kommandant
der Seeverteidigung der Krim.

◀ *An award document for the Kraftfahr-Obermaat (Motor Petty Officer) Eugen Stücher. Standard form in DIN A5 format. Certified by the Commander of the Naval Defense Crimea, Kapitän zur See (Captain) Otto Schulz (Knight's Cross on 17.05.1944).*

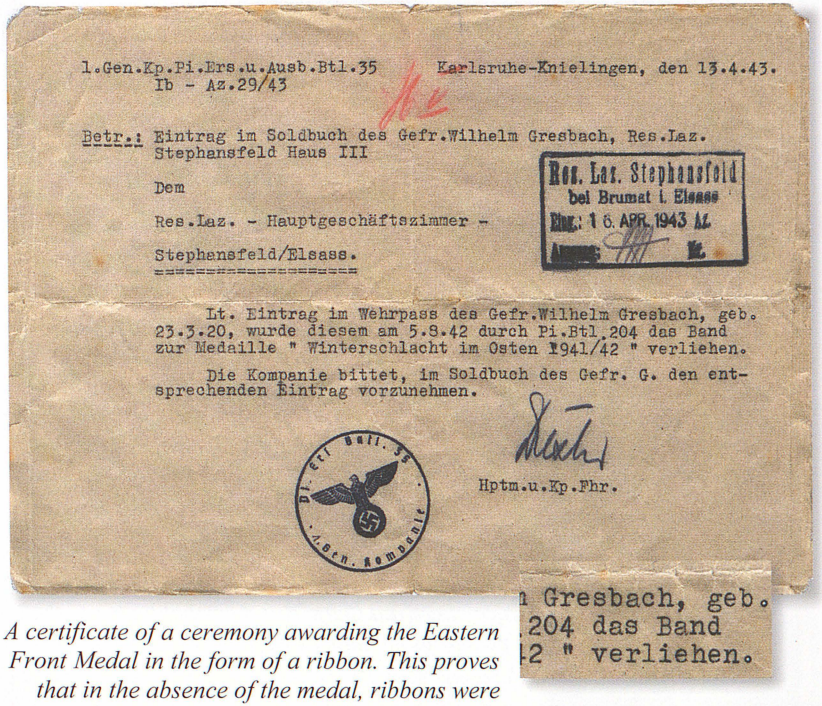
Josef Majer Collection

Ribbon Bars and Sizes

With the foundation of the Eastern Front Medal and the extremely high demand for this award, there were enormous supply bottlenecks among the orders and deocorations manufacturers. Therefore, in the months following the foundation, only the ribbon was initially awarded. Only later were the medals delivered.
The ribbons for the Eastern Front Medal could be produced quickly by the weaving industry. As with other awards, in addition to the normal medal ribbons (30mm), smaller sizes (25 mm and 16 mm), were produced. The smaller sizes were commonly used only for ribbon bars, buttonhole bows, and other award decorations.

Below is the comparison of the individual sizes of medal ribbons to the Eastern Front Medal. ▼▶

Jürgen Wittstock-Fretter Collection



1.Gen.Kp.Pi.Ers.u.Ausb.Btl.35 Karlsruhe-Knielingen, den 13.4.43.
Ib - Az.29/43

Betr.: Eintrag im Soldbuch des Gefr.Wilhelm Gresbach, Res.Laz. Stephansfeld Haus III

Dem

Res.Laz. - Hauptgeschäftszimmer -

Stephansfeld/Elsass.

Res. Laz. Stephansfeld bei Brumat i. Elsass Eing.: 16. APR. 1943 Az.

Lt. Eintrag im Wehrpass des Gefr.Wilhelm Gresbach, geb. 23.3.20, wurde diesem am 5.8.42 durch Pi.Btl.204 das Band zur Medaille " Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42 " verliehen.

Die Kompanie bittet, im Soldbuch des Gefr. G. den entsprechenden Eintrag vorzunehmen.

Hptm.u.Kp.Fhr.

Gresbach, geb.
.204 das Band
42 " verliehen.

A certificate of a ceremony awarding the Eastern Front Medal in the form of a ribbon. This proves that in the absence of the medal, ribbons were issued first. ▲▶

Die ersten Verleihungen der Bänder zur Ostmedaille

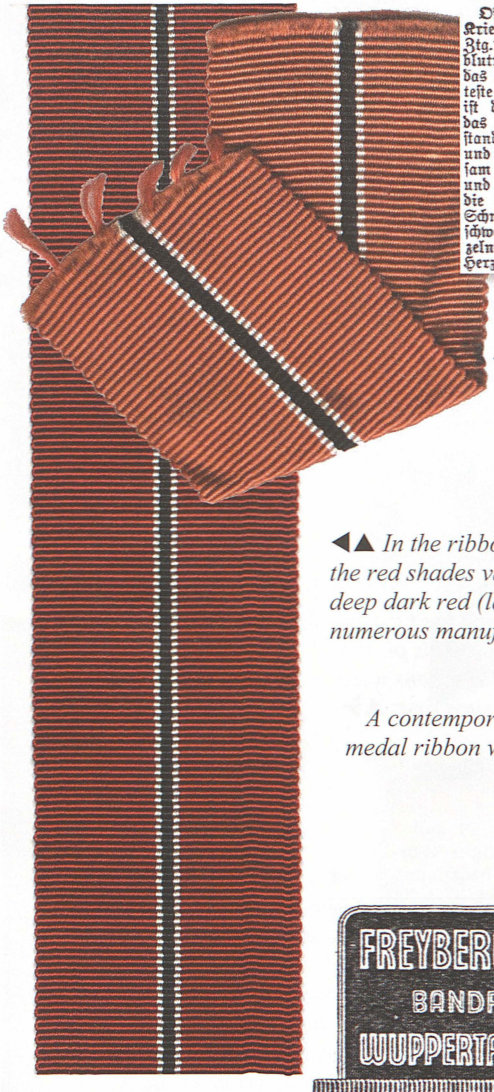
Berlin, 24. Juli

Nachdem der Führer die Ostmedaille in Würdigung des heldenhaften Einsatzes gegen den bolschewistischen Feind während des Winters 1941/42 gestiftet hat, sind nunmehr die ersten Angehörigen des deutschen Heeres und der Waffen-SS, die an der Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42 teilgenommen haben, mit dem Band zur Ostmedaille ausgezeichnet worden. Das erste dunkelrote Band mit einem schmalen weiß-schwarz-weißen Streifen in der Mitte wurde im nördlichen Frontabschnitt dem Chef einer in der Winterschlacht eingesetzten Infanteriekompanie ausgehändigt, der sich auf der Fahrt zum Heimaturlaub befand.

Während die Anfertigung der Ostmedaillen noch eine gewisse Zeit in Anspruch nimmt, werden die Bänder zur Ostmedaille nunmehr fortlaufend verliehen.

◀ *An article from the newspaper "Völkischer Beobachter" (People's Observer) from 25 Jul 1942 proves the initial awards were in the form of a ribbon, since the preparation of the actual Eastern Front Medal took some time. Interestingly, the article mentions the first award of the medal to an infantry company commander.*

Sascha Weber Collection

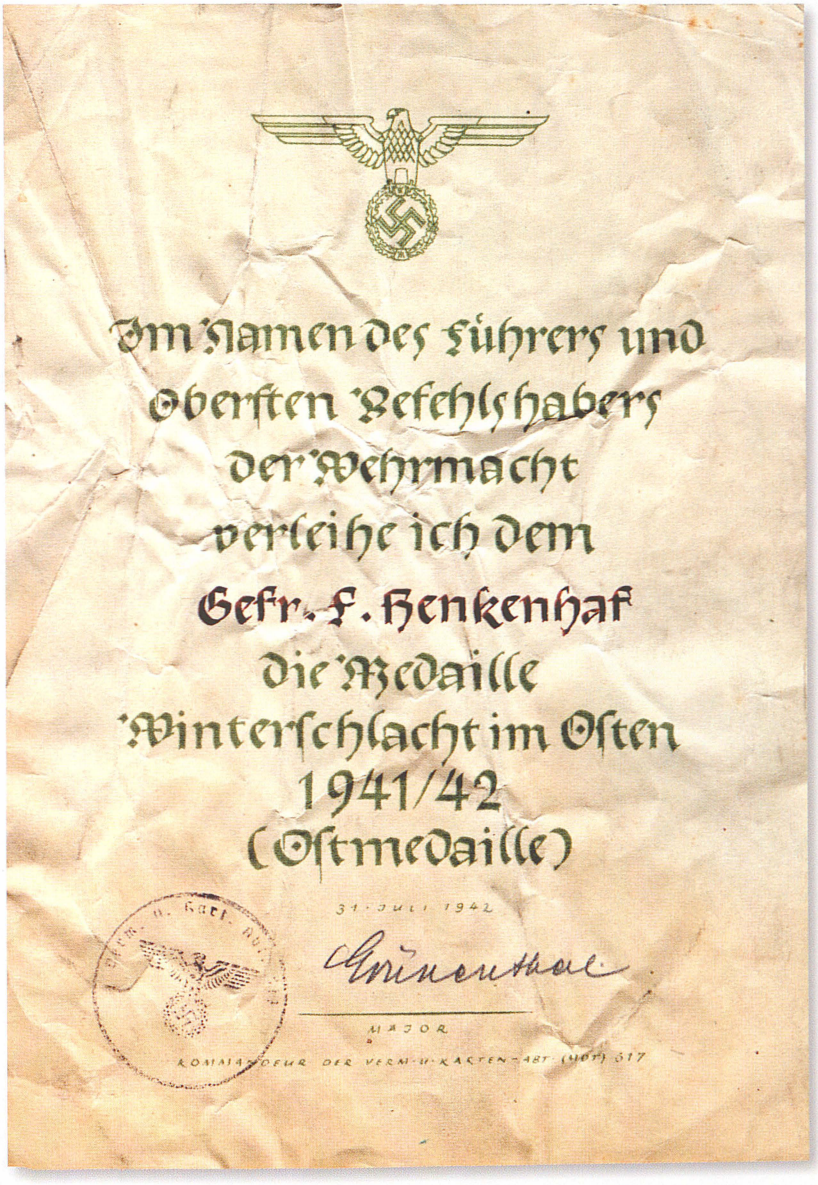


Ostmedaille. Nach einer Schilderung von Kriegsberichter Joachim Preß, PK. („Grenzmark-Ztg.", Eisenstadt, 25. 9. 42), deutet die Front das blutrote Band wie folgt: Das leuchtende Rot ist das tapfere Leben, das stärker war als der härteste Winter in der Geschichte der Kriege. „Darum ist der weiße Streifen so schmal geblieben, da das tapfere Leben trotz allem ungebrochen aufstand aus Löchern, Stützpunkten, Bauernkaten und Bunkern, um wie ein Feuerbrand unaufhaltsam nach Osten vorzurücken. Aber auch die Opfer und die Erinnerung an viele gute Kameraden, die still liegenblieben auf dem Leichentuch der Schneefelder, sind unvergessen. Als ein feiner schwarzer Streifen ist die Trauer um jeden einzelnen eingeschlossen als innerster Kern und Herzstück in den blutroten Grund."

▲ *A contemporary description from a war correspondent on the significance of the colors of the ribbon to the Eastern Front Medal. From the magazine "Uniforms Market".*

◀▲ *In the ribbons for the Eastern Front Medal, the red shades vary from a weak red (above) to a deep dark red (left). This is probably due to the numerous manufacturers of award ribbons.*

A contemporary advertisement of a Wuppertal medal ribbon weaving company from the former journal "Uniforms Market". ▼



▲ *A very rare award document for Gefreiten Henkenhaf from Motorized Surveying and Map Department 617, certified by its commander.*

MINIATURES

Miniatures in the standard sizes of 9 and 16 millimeters were also available for the Eastern Front Medal from various specialized manufacturers. In particular, the 16-millimeter sizes were supplied not only with a needle, but also with an eyelet for the so-called "lapel chain".

The miniatures could be worn with civilian clothes. For the Eastern Front Medal in particular, in practice this was almost always only for civilians, former members of the Wehrmacht, or other organizations involved in the east. As the war progressed, all Wehrmacht, police, and SS members were usually in uniform, provided that they were not on home leave.
As a result, miniatures of the East Medal are a bit rarer to find on the collector's market.

◀ *A 16mm sized from an unknown manufacturer.*

A 9 mm sized pin from the manufacturer Steinhauer & Lück, marked with "L / 16".▶

Heiko Brunotte Collection

An unknown battle-hardened NCO on the Eastern Front. Note the field clasp with the ribbon for the East Medal

EPILOGUE

Dear Reader and Collector Friends:
After reading this work on the medal for the winter battles in the east (Winterschlacht Im Osten), you should have been able to get an overview of the existing variants for this award. I hope you now see this still quite affordable award with a different set of eyes, and that you now may have something of an "appetite" to collect medals from different manufacturers.

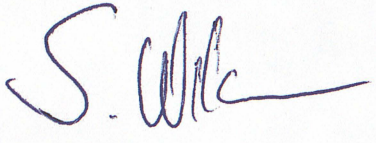
As you can see, as part of the research for this book, new and interesting findings regarding some manufacturing companies were discovered and published. In particular, the images from the city archives of Mittweida and Munich are worth seeing. Therefore, I hope that this book has met or exceeded your expectations..

Certainly there will be some critical remarks by some "old" fellow authors about this book - that one really does not need such a publication. I say that this is exactly what collectors need! Especially in the collectors' market there are good forgeries (see pieces "L 15" without slash), which mainly find their way into the collections of newcomers.

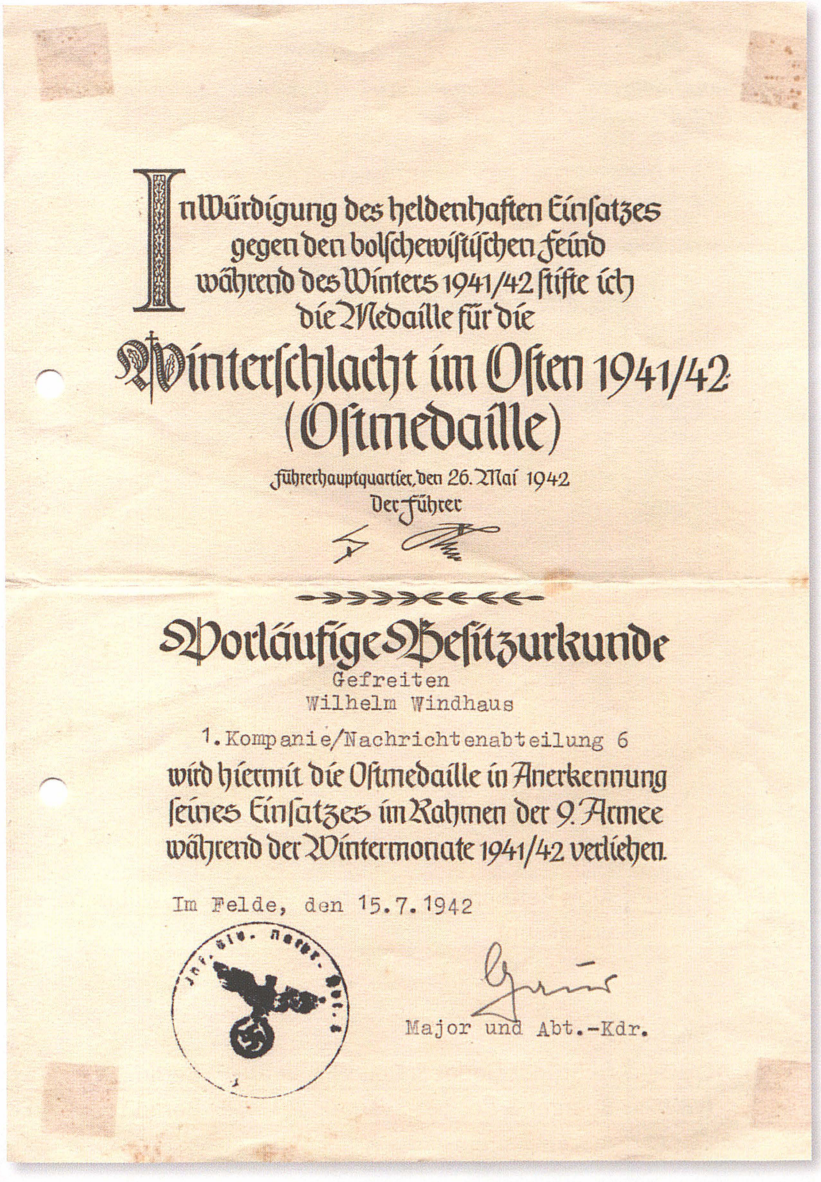
As a further point, I would like to emphasize again that this work does not claim to be complete in any scientific way . Again and again pieces and variants can appear that were previously unknown. To this end, I cordially invite you to contact me if you have any unknown pieces of manufacturers not presented in this book, or unknown material for the Eastern Front Medal.

I hope you enjoy collecting and would be pleased if you continue to support my publications in the future!

With friendly collectors ' greetings



Sascha Weber



In Würdigung des heldenhaften Einsatzes
gegen den bolschewistischen Feind
während des Winters 1941/42 stifte ich
die Medaille für die

Winterschlacht im Osten 1941/42
(Ostmedaille)

Führerhauptquartier, den 26. Mai 1942
Der Führer

Vorläufige Besitzurkunde

Gefreiten
Wilhelm Windhaus
1. Kompanie/Nachrichtenabteilung 6

wird hiermit die Ostmedaille in Anerkennung
seines Einsatzes im Rahmen der 9. Armee
während der Wintermonate 1941/42 verliehen.

Im Felde, den 15.7.1942

Major und Abt.-Kdr.

▲ *An award document for Gefreiter Wilhelm Windhaus of the 1st Company of Nachrichtenabteilung (Signal Detachment) 6. Certified by the commander of Nachrichtenabteilung 6.*

ADDENDUM

List of manufacturers of Präsidialkanzlei (PK) and Leistungsgemeinschaft Deutscher Ordenshersteller (LDO):

= *Production of the Eastern Front Medal confirmed by marking or found in packaging bag.*

PK-Nr.	LDO-Nr.	Firm	Location
1	L/10	Deschler & sohn	München
2	L/12	C.E. Juncker	Berlin
3	L/11	Wilhelm Deumer	Lüdenscheid
4	L/16	Steinhauer & Lück	Lüdenscheid
5	L/17	Hermann Wernstein	Jena-Löbstedt
6	L/24	Fritz Zimmermann	Stuttgart
7	L/13	Paul Meybauer	Berlin
8	L/19	Ferdinand Hoffstätter	Bonn
9		Liefergemeinschaft Pforzheimer Schmuckhersteller	Pforzheim
10	L/21	Förster & Barth	Pforzheim
11		Großmann & Co.	Wien
12		Frank & Reif	Stuttgart
13	L/60	Gustav Brehmer	Markneukirchen
14		L. Christian Lauer	Nürnberg
15	L/14	Friedrich Orth	Wien
16	L/59	Alois Rettenmeyer	Schwäbisch Gmünd
17		unbekannt	
18		Karl Wurster K.G.	Markneukirchen
19	L/51	E. Ferdinand Wiedmann	Frankfurt am Main
20	L/52	C.F. Zimmermann	Pforzheim
21	L/50	Gebrüder Godet & Co.	Berlin
22	L/57	Boerger & Co.	Berlin
23		Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Heeresbedarf in der Graveur-und Ziseleurinnung	Berlin
24		Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Hanauer	Hanau

		Plakettenhersteller	
25		Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Graveur-, Gold- und Silberschmiedeinnungen	Hanau
26	L/18	B.H. Mayer´s Kunstprägeanstalt	Pforzheim
27		Anton Schenkl / Maria Schenkl	Wien
28		Eugen Schmidhäussler	Pforzheim
29		Preußische Staatsmünze	Berlin
30		Hauptmünzamt	Wien
31		Hans Gnad	Wien
32		Wilhelm Hobacher	Wien
33	L/61	Friedrich Linden	Lüdenscheid
34		Willy Annetsberger	München
35	L/64	F.W. Assmann & Söhne	Lüdenscheid
36		Bury & Leonhard	Hanau
37		Adolf Baumeister	Lüdenscheid
38		Josef Bergs & Co.	Gablonz
39		Rudolf Bergs	Gablonz
40		Berg & Nolte	Lüdenscheid
41		Gebrüder Bender	Oberstein
42		Biedermann & Co.	Oberkassel b. Bonn
43		Julius Bauer & Söhne	Zella-Mehlis
44		Jakob Bengel	Oberstein
45		Franz Jungwirth	Wien
46		Hans Doppler	Wels / Oberdonau
47		Erhardt & Söhne	Schwäbisch-Gmünd
48		Richard Feix	Gablonz
49		Josef Feix	Gablonz
50		Karl Gschiermeister	Wien
51		Eduard Görlach & Söhne	Gablonz
52		Gottlieb & Wagner	Oberstein
53	L/22	Glaser & Söhne	Dresden
54		Gebrüder Wegerhoff	Lüdenscheid
55		J.E. Hammer & Söhne	Geringswalde
56		Robert Hauschild	Pforzheim
57		Karl Hensler	Pforzheim

58		Arthur Jäkel	Gablonz
59		Louis Keller	Oberstein
60		Katz & Deyle	Pforzheim
61		Rudolf A. Karneth & Söhne	Gablonz
62		Kerbach & Österhelt	Dresden
63		Franz Klamt & Söhne	Gablonz
64		Gottlieb Friedrich Keck & Sohn	Pforzheim
65	L/26	Klein & Quenzer	Oberstein
66		Friedrich Keller	Oberstein
67		Robert H. Kreisel	Gablonz
68		Alfred Knobloch	Gablonz
69		Alois Klammer	Insbruck
70		Lind & Meyrer	Oberstein
71		Rudolf Leukert	Gablonz
72		Franz Lipp	Pforzheim
73		Franz Mänert	Gablonz
74		Carl Maurer & Sohn	Oberstein
75		unbekannt	
76		Ernst L. Müller	Pforzheim
77		Bayrisches Hauptmünzamt	München
78		Gustav Miksch	Gablonz
79		unbekannt	
80	L/63	G.H. Osang	Dresden
81		Overhoff & Cie.	Lüdenscheid
82		Augustin Prager	Gablonz
83		Emil Peukert	Gablonz
84		Carl Poellath	Schrobenhausen
85		Julius Pietsch	Gablonz
86		Paulmann & Crone	Lüdenscheid
87		Roman Palme	Gablonz
88	L/62	Werner Redo	Saarlautern
89		Rudolf Richter	Schlag bei Gablonz
90		August F. Richter KG	Hamburg
91		Josef Rössler & Sohn	Gablonz
92		Josef Rückert & Sohn	Gablonz
93		Richard Simm & Söhne	Gablonz

94		unbekannt	
95		Adolf Scholze	Grünwald
96		unbekannt	
97		unbekannt	
98	L/58	Rudolf Souval	Wien
99		Schwertner & Cie.	Granz-Eggenberg
100	L/55	Rudolf Wächtler & Lange	Mittweida
101		Rudolf Tham	Gablonz
102		Philipp Türk / Ph. Türk´s Witwe	Wien
103		August G. Tham	Gablonz
104		Heinrich Ulbricht	Kaufing
105		Heinrich Vogt	Pforzheim
106		Gebrüder Schneider AG	Wien
107		Carl Wild	Hamburg
108		Arno Wallpach	Salzburg
109		Walter & Henlein	Gablonz
110		Otto Zappe	Gablonz
111		Ziemer & Söhne	Oberstein
112		Argentorwerke Rust & Hetzel	Wien
113		Hermann Aurich	Dresden
114		Ludwig Bertsch	Karlsruhe
115		unbekannt	
116	L/56	Funcke & Brüninghaus	Lüdenscheid
117		Hugo Lang	Wiesenthal
118		August Menze & Sohn	Wien
119		unbekannt	
120		Franz Petzl	Wien
121		unbekannt	
122		J.J. Stahl	Straßburg
123		Beck, Hassinger & Co.	Straßburg
124		Rudolf Schanes	Wien
125		Eugen Gauss	Pforzheim
126		Eduard Hahn	Oberstein
127		Moriz Hausch AG	Pforzheim
128		S. Jablonski & Co.	Posen
129		Fritz Kohm	Pforzheim

130		Wilhelm Schröder	Lüdenscheid
131		Heinrich Wander	Gablonz
132		Franz Reischauer	Oberstein
133		unbekannt	
134		Otto Klein & Co.	Hanau
135		Julius Moser sen.	Oberstein
136		J. Wagner & Sohn	Berlin
137		J.H. Werner	Berlin
138	L/23	Julius Maurer	Oberstein
139	L/53	Hymmen & Co.	Lüdenscheid
140	L/54	Schauerte & Hohfeld	Lüdenscheid
141		Sohni, Heubach & Co.	Oberstein
142	L/66	A.D. Schwerdt	Stuttgart
	L/15	Otto Schickle	Pforzheim
	L/25	A.E. Köchert	Wien
	L/65	Franke & Co. KG	Lüdenscheid
		Arbeitsgemeinschaft Metall & Kunststoff	Gablonz
		Metallwarenfabrik Posen – Hans Dieren	Posen

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- www.Das-Ritterkreuz.de

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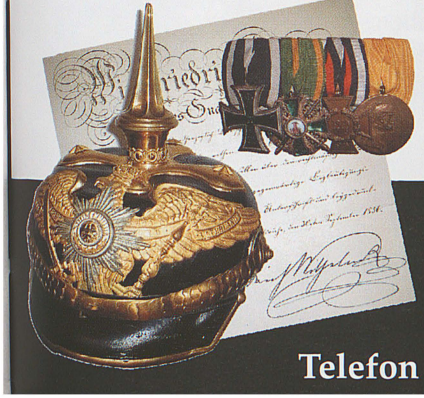

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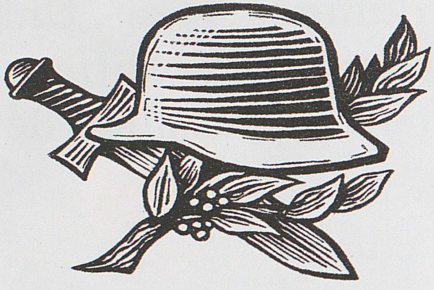

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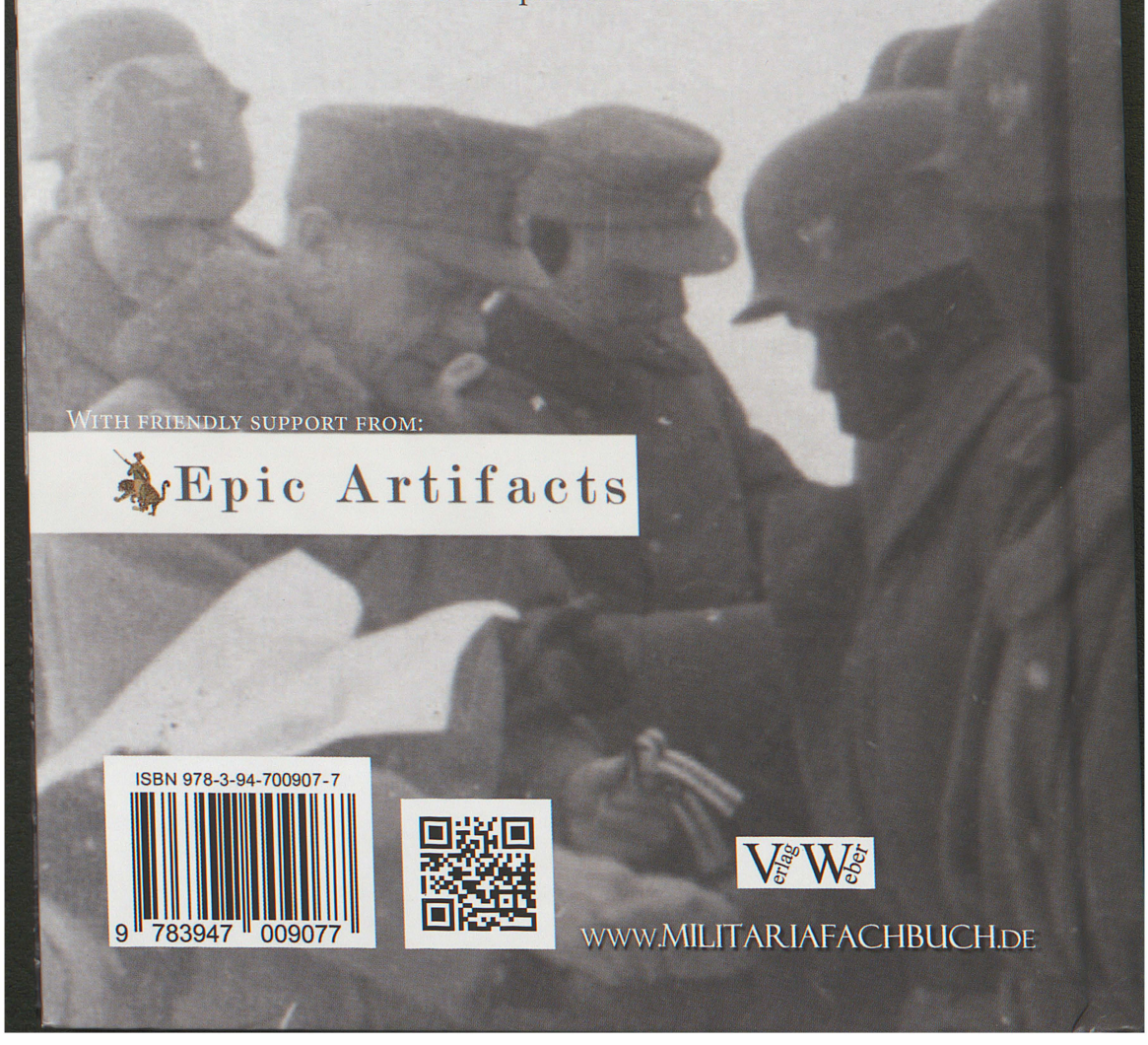

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